# SUKI™

A LIKE STORY

1

CLAMP

VIZ SELECT

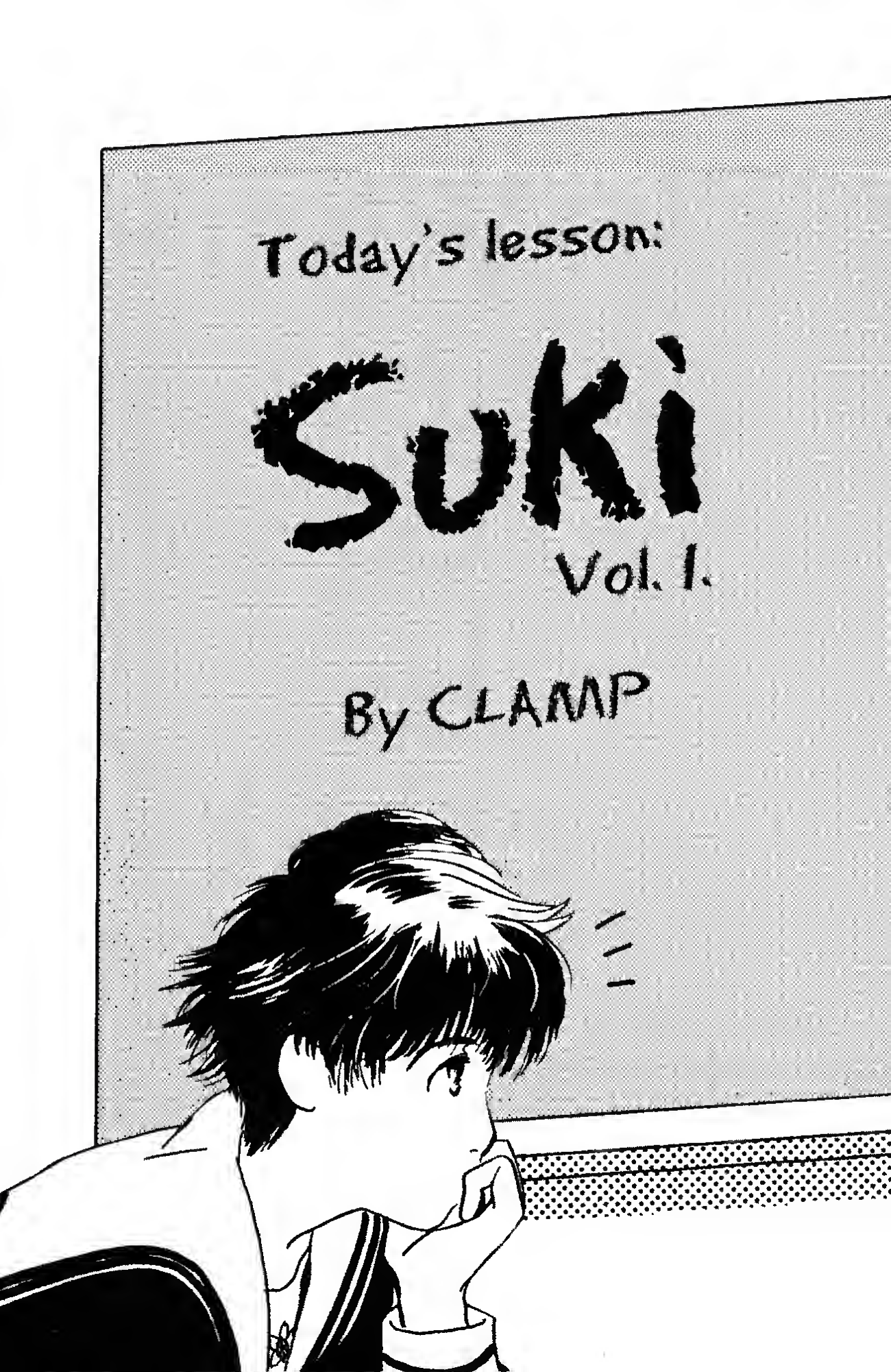
"I LIKE YOU.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU."

New Vocabulary

"Suki" - To Like

"Daisuki" - To Love

"Suki, Dakara Suki" - "I Like You, That's Why I Like You"


Today's lesson:
Suki
Vol. 1.
By CLAMP

**Suki Vol. 1**
Created by CLAMP

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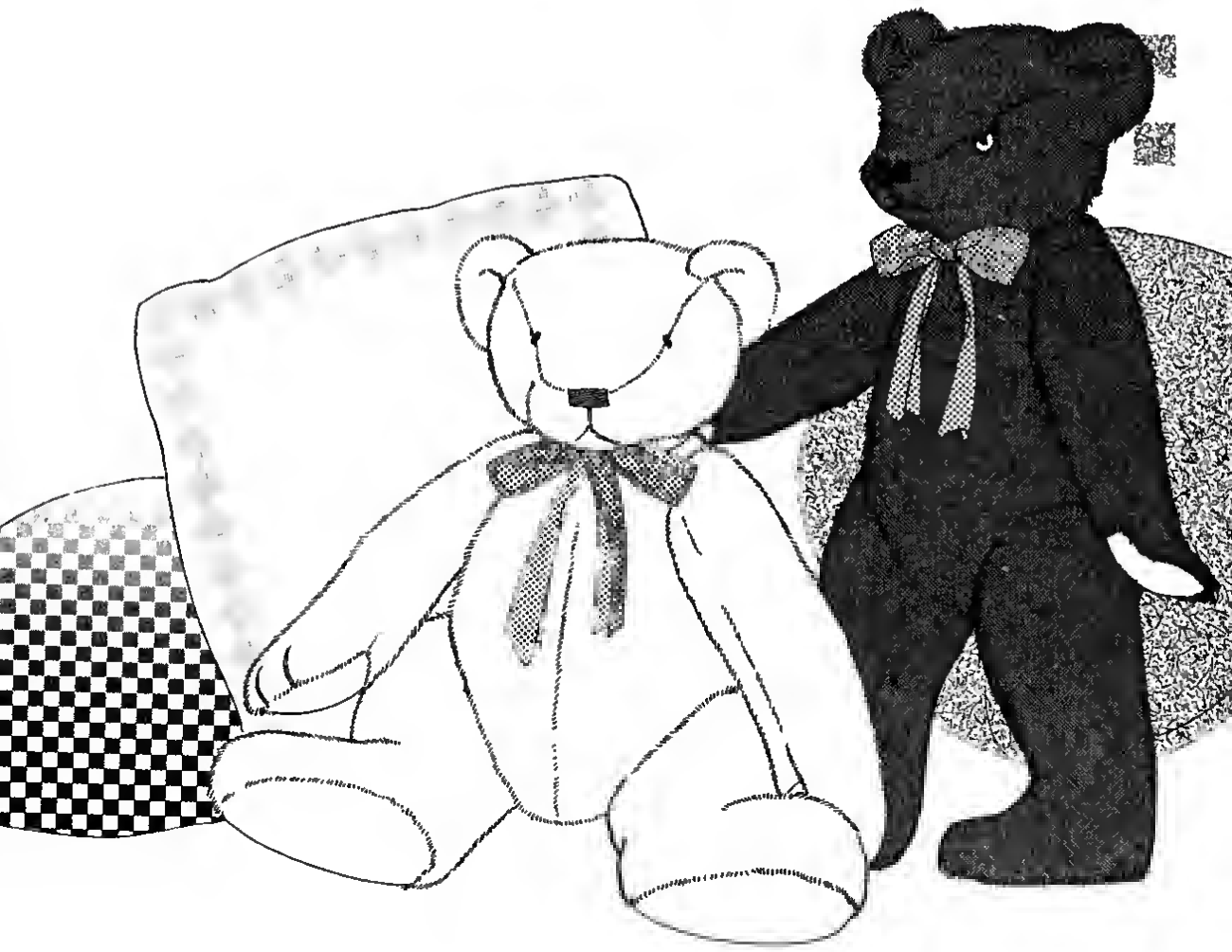
# SUKI™

# 1

LOVE...

I LOVE THINGS.
I LOVE PEOPLE.

BUT WHAT *IS* LOVE?



OOOOOOH...
IT'S SNOWING!
I *THOUGHT* IT WAS REALLY COLD TODAY!

THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR'S ALREADY COVERED IN SNOW!!
SUCH A NICE HOUSE,
THE ONE NEXT DOOR.
AND NOBODY EVEN LIVES THERE.
I WISH I COULD LIVE IN A HOUSE LIKE THAT.
WOWWW...
Mmm...

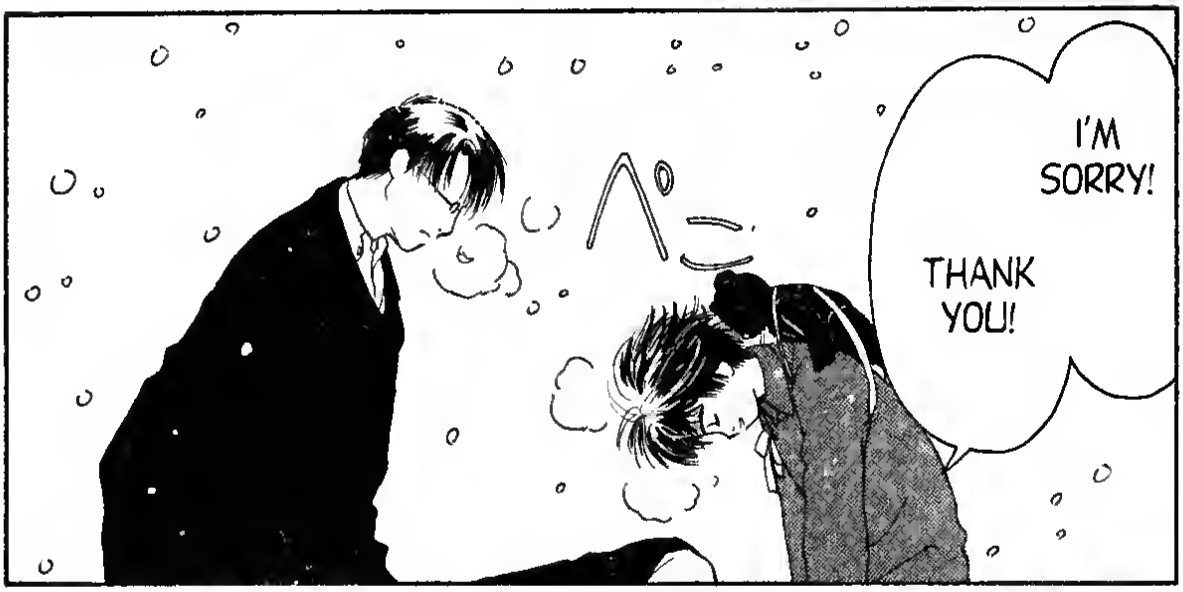
WAIT A MINUTE-- THE LIGHTS ARE ON!
HM?
DID SOMEONE MOVE IN?!
LET'S GO FIND OUT!

OOPSIE-DAISY!
WHOA!
ARE YOU HURT?

HUH?

OH... EXCUSE ME!

ER, WOULD YOU MIND GETTING OFF OF ME?
SO THIS IS NEXT DOOR...


I'M SORRY!
THANK YOU!

SO... ARE YOU MOVING IN?

AT MIDNIGHT?
WELL... YES.
WATCHING THE SNOW FALL!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT'S A GIRL LIKE YOU DOING UP AT THIS HOUR?
I'VE GOT MY REASONS.
WONDER WHAT THEY ARE...
UH-HUH!
WITH A TEDDY BEAR STRAPPED TO YOUR BACK?
SO I TRIED TO CLIMB OVER ON THE TREE, BUT I FELL...
I KNOW.
I CUSHIONED YOUR FALL.
AND THEN I GOT CURIOUS BECAUSE I SAW THE LIGHTS WERE ON OVER HERE.

THEN WE'LL BE NEIGHBORS! YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO BE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE!
YOUR HOUSE IS BIGGER.
FOR THE TIME BEING.
SO... YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE HERE?
I KNOW.
BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN THIS HOUSE!

LESSEE...
.....
MY NAME...
...IS HINATA ASAHI!
AND THIS IS HOW YOU SPELL IT!
AND THIS HERE'S WAKA!

...YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO HOLD YOUR HAND?
THEN... WHY DON'T YOU STAND UP.
DO YOU LIKE SITTING IN THE SNOW?
WELL, I DON'T HATE IT BUT I GUESS IT IS COLD.
Burrr...
YOU WANT TO STAND UP ON YOUR OWN?

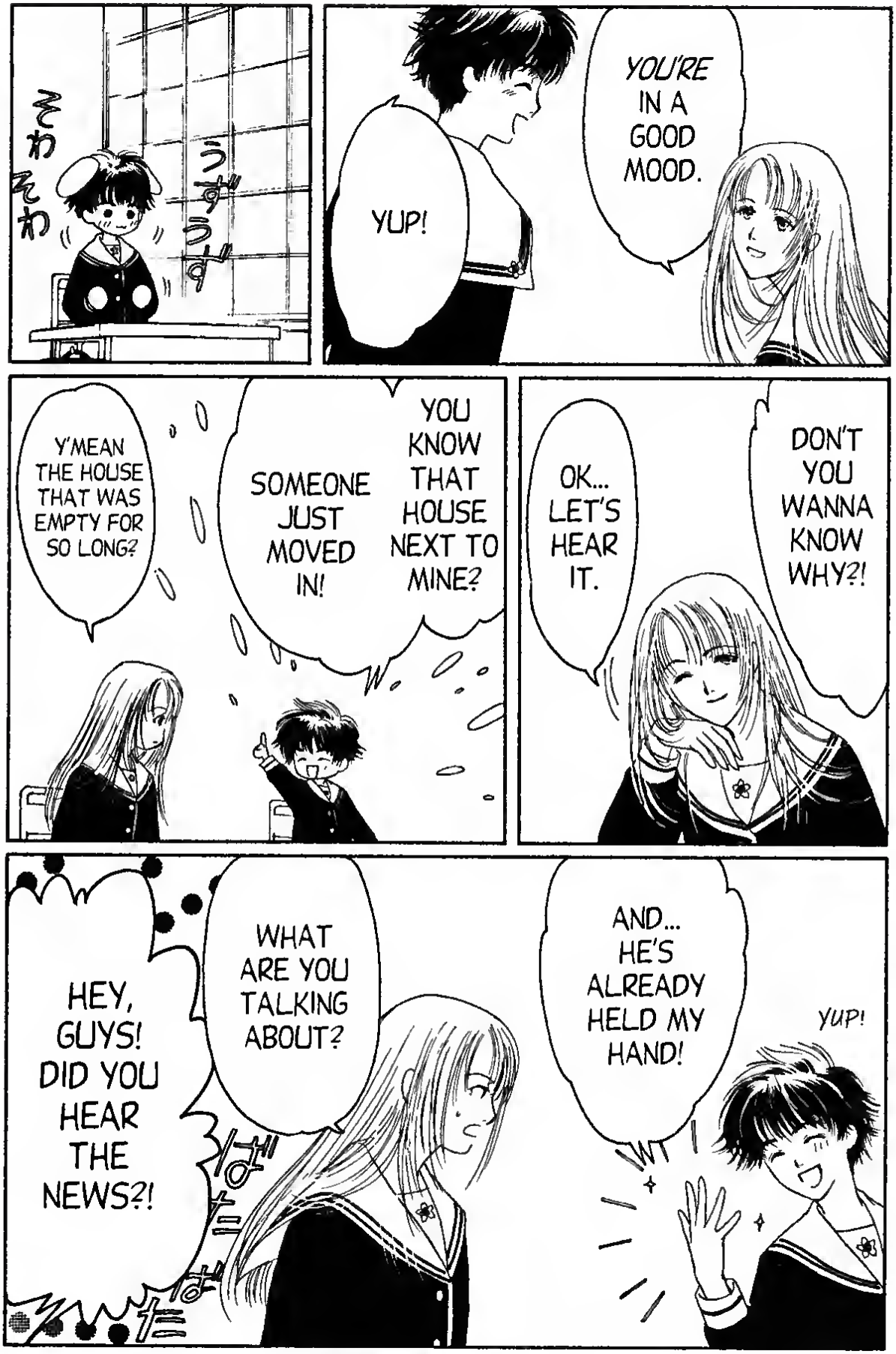
NO.
WOW-- I'M SO HAPPY!
ギュッ
WHY?

I'LL BET YOUR HANDS ARE WARMER.
YOU'RE A KID, AFTER ALL.
I DUNNO... YOUR HANDS ARE WARM.
OH!
NOW, RUN ALONG HOME... WASH UP AND GO SLEEP WITH YOUR TEDDY BEAR.

OOPSIE!
MY NEW NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR...
...I LOVE HOLDING HANDS!
...SO WARM...

YIPPEE!
THERE'S SNOW EVERY-WHERE!
ぴょん ぴょん
OH! MY NEW NEIGHBOR...
...WONDER IF HE'S STILL AT HOME?
WELL... OFF TO SCHOOL!
TEE HEE

Outo Private High School for Girls
1-D
GOOD MORNING!
MORNING, TOUKO-CHAN!
GOOD MORNING, HINA.

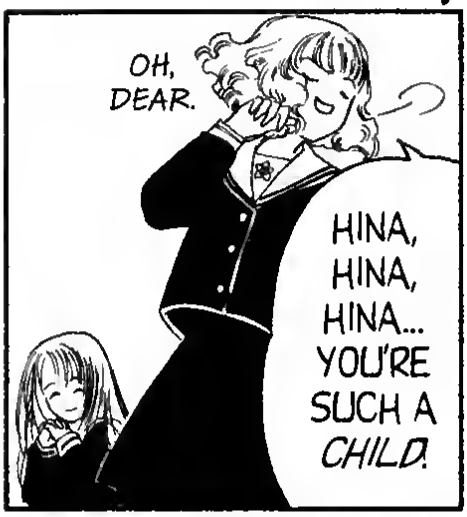

そわそわ
うずうず
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.
YUP!
Y'MEAN THE HOUSE THAT WAS EMPTY FOR SO LONG?
SOMEONE JUST MOVED IN!
YOU KNOW THAT HOUSE NEXT TO MINE?
OK... LET'S HEAR IT.
DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?!
HEY, GUYS! DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AND... HE'S ALREADY HELD MY HAND!
YUP!

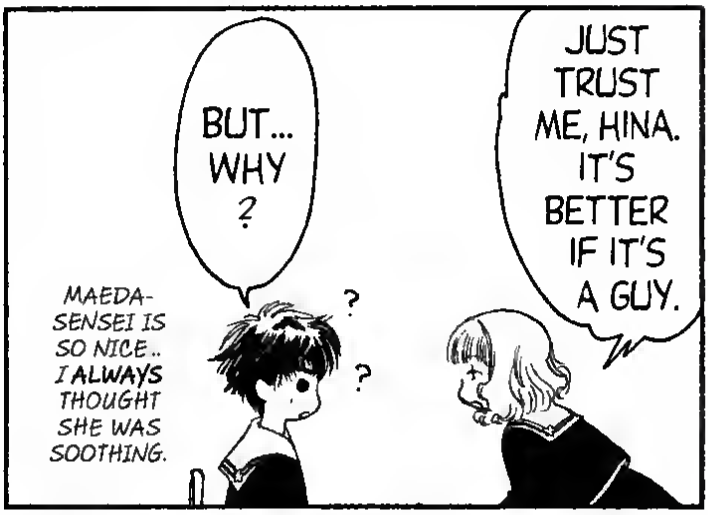
I'M NOT HYPER, TOUKO. YOU'RE JUST MELLOW.
OR MAYBE JUST A FUDDY-DUDDY
SO-- WHAT'S THE NEWS?
OOH, TELL US!
YOU'RE AWFULLY HYPER FOR SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
HEY THERE, TOUKO! HINA!
OOH, EMI-CHAN!
WHAT? NOW?
WE'RE GETTING A NEW TEACHER!
THAT'S RIGHT-- MAEDA-SAN'S BABY'S ALMOST DUE, ISN'T IT?
OOOOH... I LIKE TO HOLD BABIES!
IT'S GETTING HARD FOR HER TO TEACH.
WELL, MAEDA-SENSEI'S BEEN PREGNANT FOR A WHILE.

*SENSEI=TEACHER

NOT ONLY THAT... I HEAR IT'S A GUY.
SO WE'RE GETTING A SUBSTITUTE DURING HER MATERNITY LEAVE.
YUP!
A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER?
LET'S JUST HOPE HE'S EASY ON THE EYES!
PUH! EASY ON THE EYES...
OH, COME ON, TOUKO! THIS IS AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL!
RIGHT, LEFT... EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK IT'S JUST GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS!
THE ONLY MALES ON CAMPUS ARE OLD GEEZERS!
WE NEED A HANDSOME MALE TEACHER TO SOOTHE OUR ACHING HEARTS...!!

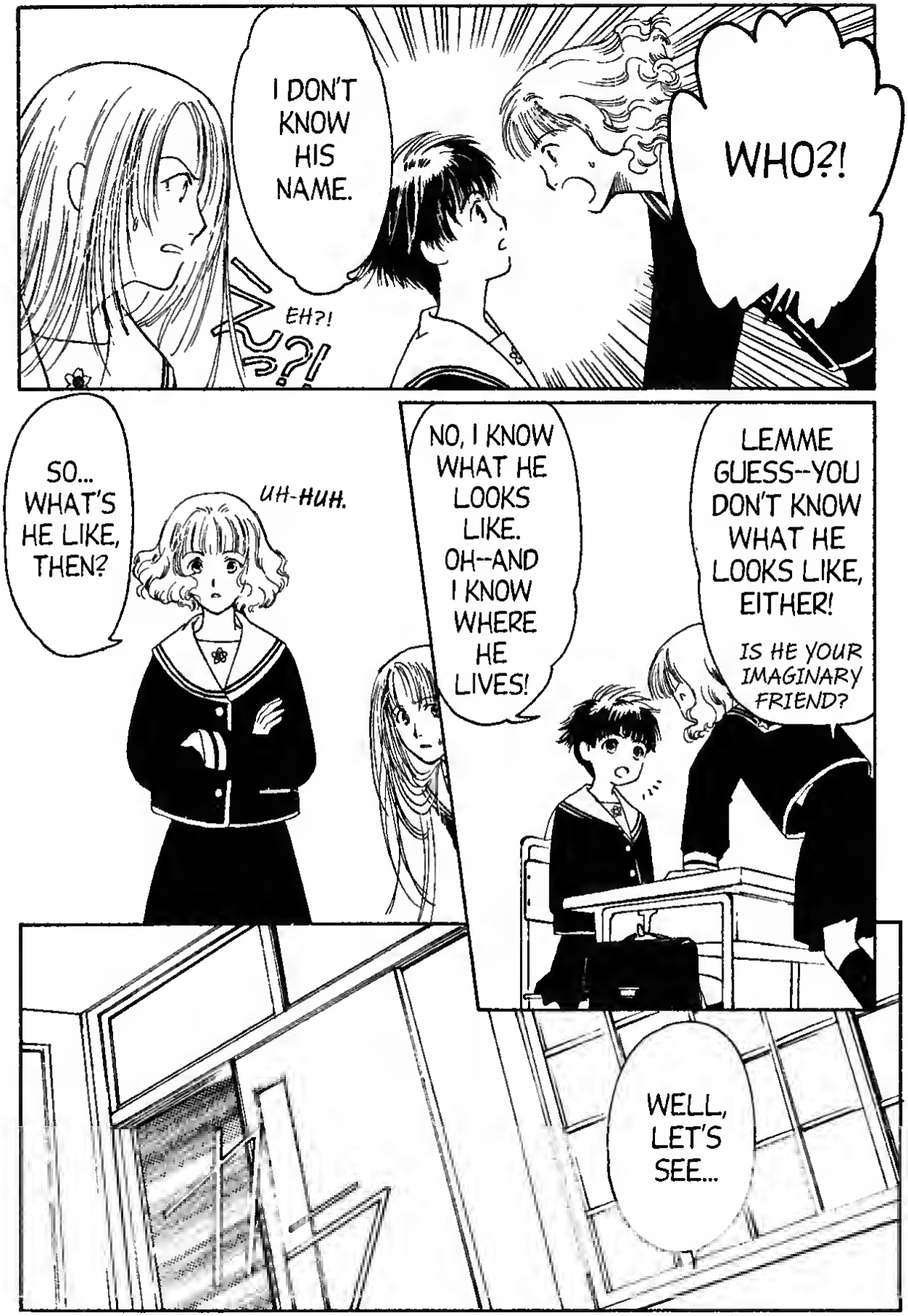
COULDN'T A GIRL TEACHER DO THAT?
WHY WOULD A *MALE* TEACHER SOOTHE US?

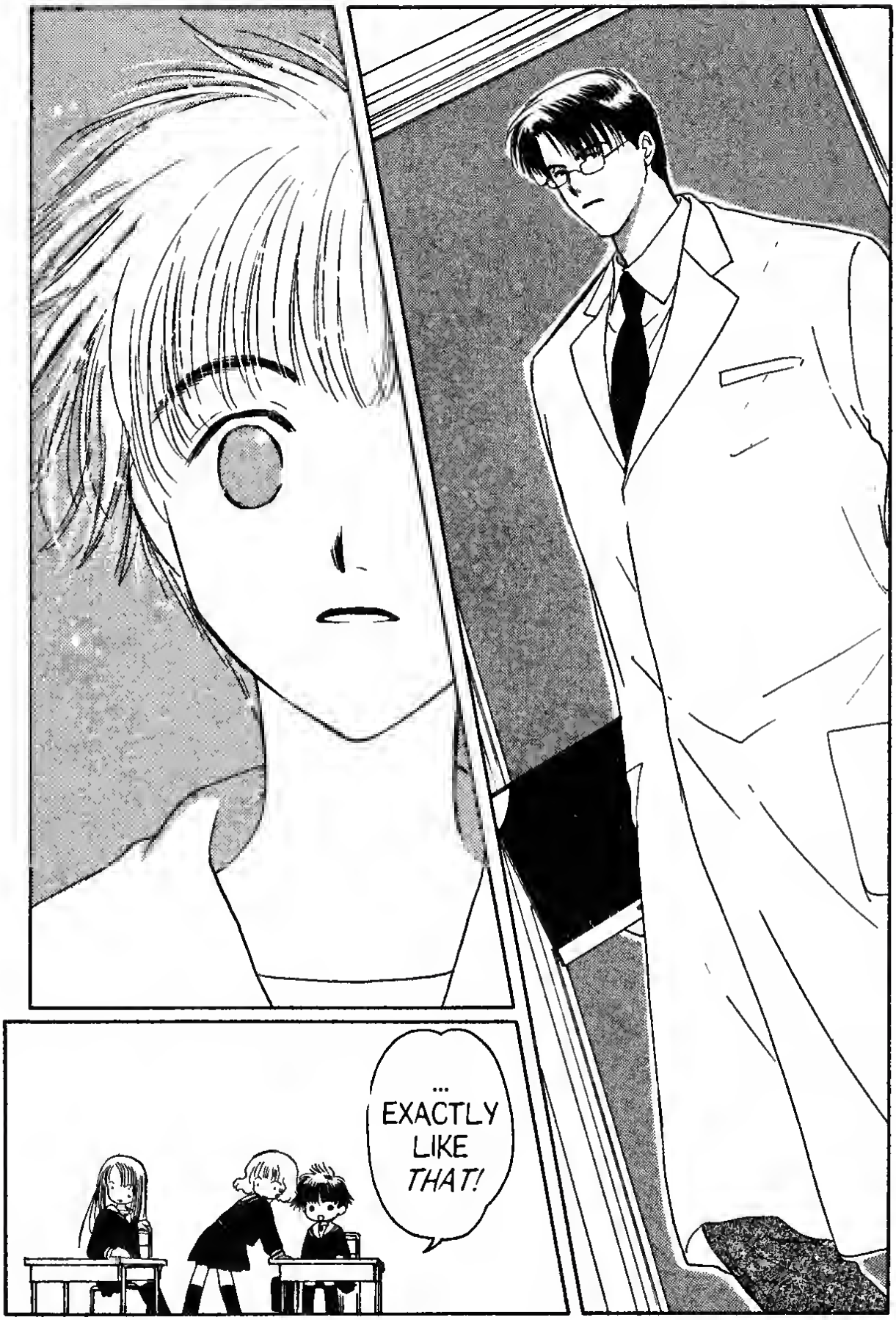

OH, DEAR.
HINA, HINA, HINA... YOU'RE SUCH A *CHILD*!


BUT... WHY ?
JUST TRUST ME, HINA. IT'S BETTER IF IT'S A GUY.
*MAEDA-SENSEI IS SO NICE.. I* **ALWAYS** *THOUGHT SHE WAS SOOTHING.*
? ?

...SOME-ONE.

HASN'T *ANYONE* EVER SET YOUR HEART AFLUTTER ?!


I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME.
EH?!
WHO?!
SO... WHAT'S HE LIKE, THEN?
UH-HUH.
NO, I KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. OH--AND I KNOW WHERE HE LIVES!
LEMME GUESS--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, EITHER!
IS HE YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND?
WELL, LET'S SEE...


...
EXACTLY
LIKE
THAT!

ALL RIGHT, CLASS... MY NAME IS SHIRO ASOU.
I'LL BE REPLACING MAEDA-SENSEI AS YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER FOR A WHILE.
MY FOCUS WILL BE ON CHEMISTRY.
I SEE... SO, MY NEIGHBOR IS A TEACHER... MY HOMEROOM TEACHER!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE...
WHERE ARE YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS?!
I KNOW!
Bye
JUST A MINUTE, SENSEI!!

HE WRITES SO SMALL...
WELL, YOU COULD AT LEAST PUT YOUR NAME ON THE CHALKBOARD-- DON'T YOU WANT US TO KNOW HOW TO SPELL IT?
WHAT?
NO.
ARE YOU MARRIED?
I'M 32.
ASOU SHIRO
HEY, SENSEI-- HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
THAT DESERVED AN "OOOOOHHH?"
YIPPEE!
WOOHOO!
OOOOOOHHH
KYAAHH!
SO WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU CAME TO TEACH US?

WHAT WERE YOU, A FUGITIVE?
THAT'S A SECRET.
KYAAAH!
OOOHH!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
WHAT WAS IT? GIRL TROUBLE?!
C'MON, SENSEI! WE'RE NOT DONE WITH YOU!
SENSEI! I HAVE A QUESTION!
AAAA
UH-- HINA?

DO YOU REMEMBER MY NAME?!
...HINATA ASAHI.
ぴょん
HUH?
てたてた
BINGO!

SMALL WORLD, HUH?
AND I THOUGHT THIS KIND OF THING ONLY HAPPENED ON TV!
REALLY?
SO... ASOU-SENSEI IS YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR?
YUP!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY KEEP IT QUIET FOR NOW.
HOW COME?
WELL, WE ALREADY KNOW HINA ALWAYS SCORES 100 PERCENT ON TESTS WITHOUT HELP...
YOU WOULDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK HE WAS PLAYING FAVORITES BECAUSE YOU'RE HIS NEIGHBOR, WOULD YOU?
LIKE WHEN YOU DO GOOD ON A TEST OR SOMETHING.
PLAYING FAVORITES?

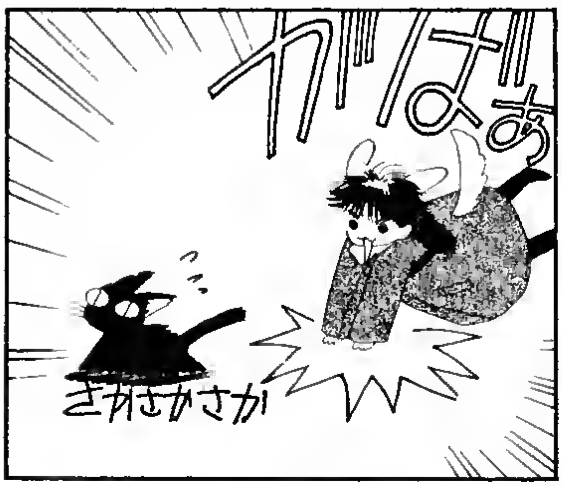
I STILL DON'T GET HOW YOU CAN BE SO SMART WHEN YOU SEEM SO OUT OF IT OTHERWISE.
MAYBE BEING SUCH A GOOD STUDENT STUNTED YOUR EMOTIONAL GROWTH?
OR YOUR COMMON SENSE
なでなで
...BUT WE ALSO KNOW SHE'S ONLY A BABY IN EVERYTHING ELSE!
YEAH-- WHAT'S WRONG, TOUKO-CHAN?
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT? TOUKO?
IN FACT, YOU KINDA BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN SIMPLY INNOCENT AND INNOCENT SIMPLETON.
... THAT TEACHER ...
?
YOU KNOW, HINA...

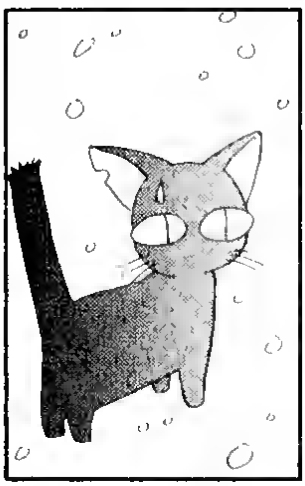
TEACHER?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
NO, WHAT? WHAT IS IT?! DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG AGAIN?!
WHOA WHOA
NO, NO... NEVER MIND.
WELL...THAT ASOU-SENSEI SEEMS LIKE A NICE ENOUGH GUY, I GUESS.
NO... YOU'RE FINE.
ポン
ポン
THE LAB COAT AND GLASSES ARE A LITTLE WEIRD, BUT...

ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HINA?
SURE! I LIKE 'EM REALLY YOUNG OR REALLY OLD!
YOU TOO, EMI?
アレ?
くるりん
...OUR SCHOOL'S SHORT ON YOUNG MALE TEACHERS, SO WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE CAN GET!
I DON'T KNOW. BUT WHEN I SEE HIM,
MY HEART GETS ALL FUZZY AND WARM.
HEARTBURN? BETTER LAY OFF THE TEMPURA, HINA! AH HA HA HA!

IT'S SNOWING! IT'S SNOWING!
REMINDS ME OF THAT SONG...
LET'S EAT, LET'S EAT SNOW DAIFUKUS! YOU ALWAYS MELT YOU WHITE THING, YOU...
tromp tromp

*Daifuku = mochi stuffed with sweet bean paste



HEY
...
AW... MISSED AGAIN!
WOW!
THAT CAT NEVER LETS *ME* TOUCH HIM! YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, NEIGHBOR!
... SENSEI, YOU MEAN.
*ASOU-SENSEI.*
HUH?

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST TOO SLOW, ASAHI.
THIS LITTLE GUY IS DEFINITELY THE BOSS AROUND HERE! I ALWAYS WANT TO PICK HIM UP AND HUG HIM, BUT HE ALWAYS GETS AWAY!
WOWWWW
WELL, YOU MUST BE PRETTY GREAT, SENSEI!
OH, RIGHT... RIGHT.
OR-- THE PEOPLE I REALLY LIKE CALL ME HINA!
PLEASE-- CALL ME HINATA!
OKAY... HINA.
YAYYY HUG HUG

HUH?
YOU DID JUST SAY YOU WANTED TO HUG HIM.
RIGHT HINA?
ぎゅう
OH-- THAT'S RIGHT!
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
サク サク
EH?

YOU MEAN... IT'S OKAY? YOU REALLY WANNA WALK HOME WITH ME?
IF YOU'LL HURRY UP.
WELL, WE'RE BOTH HEADED THE SAME WAY, RIGHT?
HUH? I'M JUST STAND-ING HERE.
YIP-PEE!
THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, RIGHT?
...YES.

SO? YOU CAN GO INSIDE NOW.
OKAY...
SAY-- NEIGHBOR?

SENSEI! I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, WON'T I?!
...SENSEI.

GREAT! I'LL BE THERE!

UNLESS YOU DROP OUT OF SCHOOL.

WAKA! TONO! I'M HOOOME!
WAKA
TONO
MILK
MILK

WANT SOME MORE?

I HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR IN THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR I ALWAYS LOVED.
ASOU-SENSEI...
HE HELD MY HAND... HE LET ME HUG THE BLACK CAT... HE LET ME INSIDE HIS UMBRELLA... AND HE WALKED ME HOME...
...ALL THE THINGS I LOVE!

MY HEART'S ALL FUZZY.... KINDA WARM.
I REALLY...
...LOVE THIS FEELING.
To Next

2

SUKI™

AND SUDDENLY... LOVE.

*LOTS* OF LOVE.

LOVE IS A FUN AND HAPPY THING!

THERE... ALL DONE!
♪ LET'S MAKE PANCAKES! PANCAKES, PANCAKES HAVE NICE BROWN COATS ♪ LIKE FOXES DO! WHEN THEY'RE BROWN IS WHEN THEY TASTE GREAT. ♪ DOES THAT MEAN A FOX IS TASTY, TOO?
MILK
NOW... LET'S EAT!

MMMMM. I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT PANCAKES!
もぐもぐ
DIG IN!
THE DAY IT SNOWED, MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR MOVED INTO THE HOUSE I LOVE.
I WONDER IF MY NEIGHBOR'S EATEN YET?

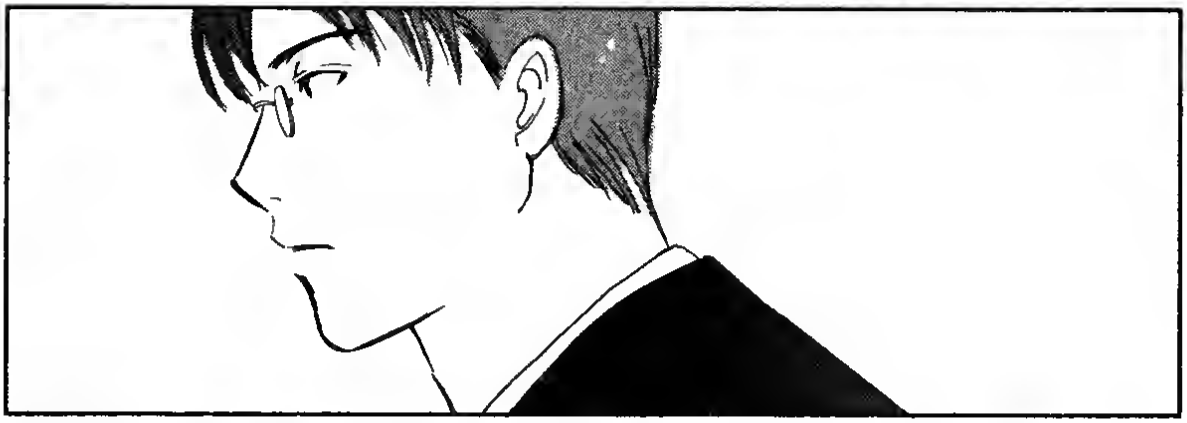
AND THE NEXT DAY HE SHARED HIS UMBRELLA WITH ME.
HE HELD MY HAND ON THE DAY WE MET.

I HOPE, I HOPE...
...I CAN HOLD HIS HAND AGAIN!

OKAY-- I'M GOING NOW!
トントン
YIPPEE-SKIPPY! SCHOOL IS NIFTY! SKIPPING TO SCHOOL IN THE NICE, BRIGHT SUN! LET'S HOPE SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS TO ME-- I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EVERYONE!
HMM... WONDER IF HE LEFT ALREADY?
ひょい
I GUESS TEACHERS ALWAYS WAKE UP BEFORE STUDENTS.

HEY THERE, NEIGHBOR!
...THAT'S SENSEI TO YOU.
すたすた
たたた
...GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, SENSEI!
oops!

MY NEIGHBOR... AND MY TEACHER!
HUH ?
MY NEW NEIGHBOR, ASOU SHIRO-SAN IS ALSO MY NEW TEACHER. WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
WHOA!
WHY?
WHY'D HE PULL ME ASIDE LIKE THAT ?
TO KEEP ME SAFE FROM PASSING CARS?



AHH... HE REALLY DOES DO ALL THE THINGS I LOVE.

THANK YOU!

STUDY HARD, EH?
OH... WE'RE HERE.
OH--
I FORGOT. YOU ALREADY GET GOOD GRADES, DON'T YOU?

OOH, HAPPY HINA'S HERE.
HEY, YOU'RE CHEERFUL AGAIN TODAY!
MORNING, HINA!
MORN-ING, HINA.
GOOD MORNING!
UP AND AT 'EM IN THE A.M., EH, HINA?
GOOD MORN-ING.
I LOVE BEING PATTED ON THE HEAD!!
SOMEHOW, SENSEI DOES ALL THE THINGS I LOVE.
I FEEL SO WARM AND FUZZY ALL OVER!
I LOVE IT!!

GOOD MORNING!
OH-- HEY THERE, HINA!
G' MORN-ING.
GOOD MORNING.
MORN-ING, HINATA
YUP! I GOT PATTED ON THE HEAD!
IT'S ALWAYS CLEAR SKIES WITH YOU, HINA.
YOU'RE CHEERFUL AS ALWAYS. ANYTHING PARTICULARLY GOOD TODAY?
HA HA HA HA! YOU GOT PATTED ON THE HEAD! WELL, YOU ARE A KID, AFTER ALL!
MY NEIGHBOR-- I MEAN, SENSE!!
BY WHO?
WHAT'S WRONG, TOUKO-CHAN?

REALLY? I NEVER NOTICED.
YOU SEEM PRETTY BLUE THESE DAYS, TOUKO-CHAN.
YOU SURE IT'S NOTHING?
YOU JUST LOOK KINDA SAD.
OH, NOTHING.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE A PUPPY DOG, HINA--GOOD INSTINCTS AND ALL!
YES... SHE DOES.
HEE HEE
BUT REALLY, I'M FINE.
THANKS, HINA.

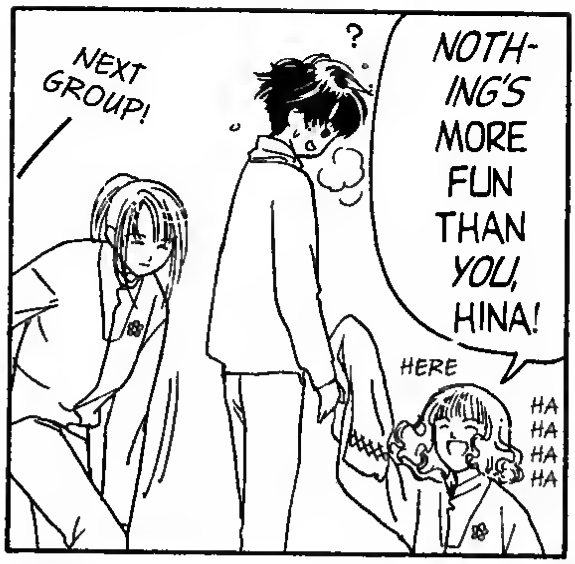
twitter twitter
キーンコーン
ガタ ガタ
OOOOHH, SENSEI'S HERE!
ALL RIGHT-- ROLL CALL.
HINATA ASAHI.
HERE !!
ER.. YOU DON'T NEED TO STAND UP.
...I CAN SEE THAT, ASAHI.
HA HA HA-- YOU'RE STILL SHORT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE STANDING, HINA!
あはは
あはは
I DUNNO, SENSEI-- YOU REALLY THINK SHE'S HERE? WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

EXCEL-
LENT
WORK,
SENSEI!
...A
KID.
わく
わく
CAN I
HAVE YOUR
AUTOGRAPH,
EMI-CHAN?
YOU'RE
GETTING
REALLY
GOOD!
IVE BEEN
PRACTICING
GOOD
TIMING
ON
THAT
ONE!
YOU
SAID
IT,
EMI!
KURUO...
HERE!
HERE!
AM
I A
KID?
A
KID
?
SIT
DOWN,
ASAHI.
NEXT UP...
KATO
WELL, WE
COULDN'T
REALLY
CALL YOU
AN ADULT.

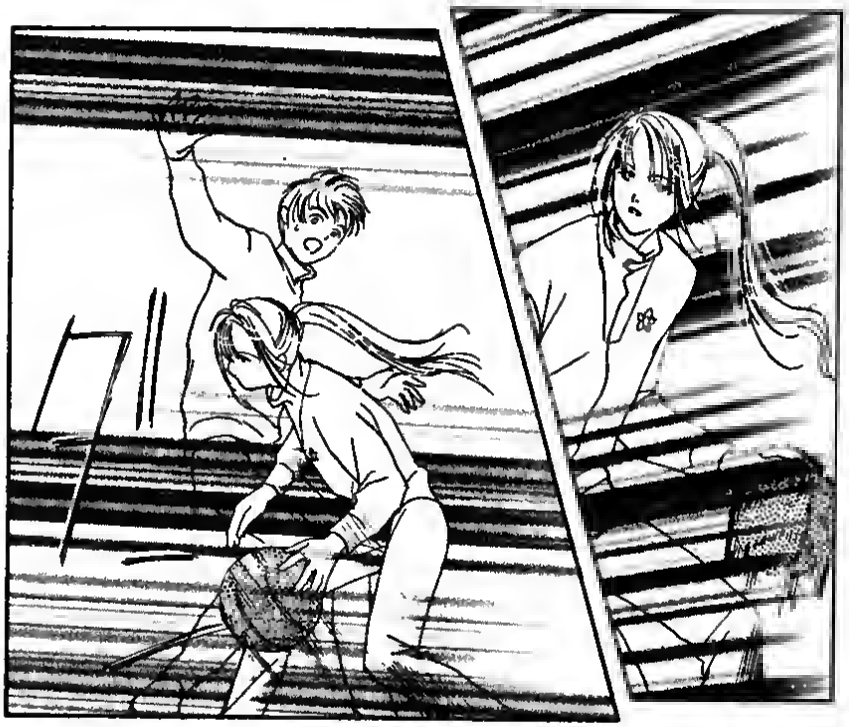
I SEE.
A KID...
SAITO
HERE!
KUDO
HERE!
...RIGHT?
I GUESS I AM JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...
WELL, I MEAN, FROM SENSEI'S POINT OF VIEW, WE'RE ALL JUST KIDS.
HE IS 32, RIGHT?
SHI-MURA
HERE!
MUI
HERE!
SUZUKI
HERE!
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
TAKEMOTO
HERE!
HERE!
TAKAGI

YAYYY
YAYYY
SHOOT IT, HINA!
STOP HER!

YEAH, GREAT JOB!
YOU DID IT! GOOD THING YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, HINATA!
WAY TO GO, HINA!
WOWW!
HINATA!
YAYYYY!
...NOW IF ONLY YOU HAD SOME COMMON SENSE...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL... BRAINS. ATHLETICISM...
KINDA LIKE A MONKEY...
NICE WORK, KIDDO! THAT'S OUR LITTLE FIRECRACKER!
HA HA HA HA HA
WOW-- THANKS!
BUT IF SHE HAD COMMON SENSE, SHE WOULDN'T BE HINA.
YES-SIREE.
HEH, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.


NEXT GROUP!
?
NOTH-ING'S MORE FUN THAN YOU, HINA!
HERE
HA HA HA HA

WHAT WHAT WHAT?! I'M NOT MISSING ANYTHING FUN, AM I?
HEY, THEY'RE LAUGH-ING.



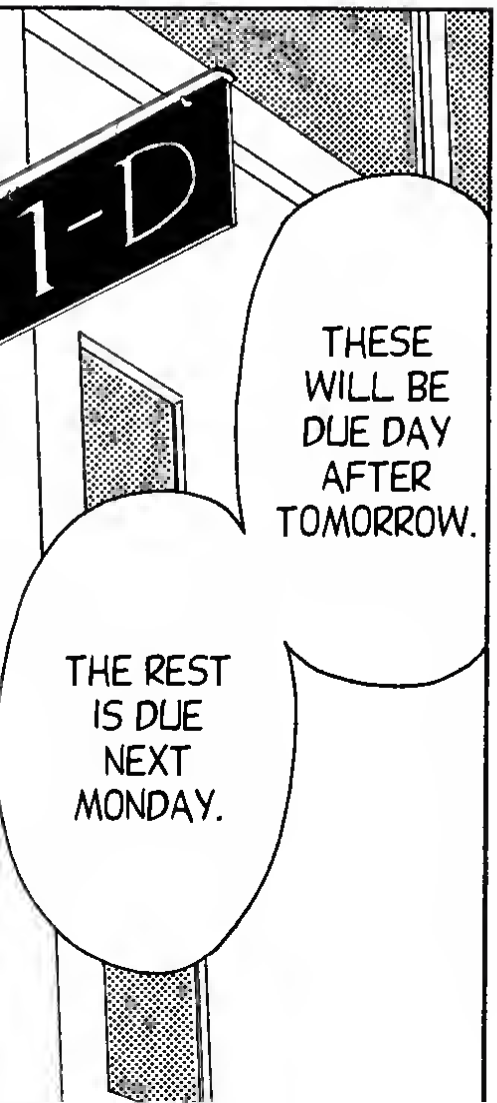
GO GET 'EM, TOUKO-CHAN!

WOOOOO!
KYAAH KYAAH
ALL RIGHT, TOUKO!
YAYYY!!
SO HOW COME SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
BOY-FRIEND?
BIT OF A STICK IN THE MUD, BUT...
TOUKO'S SO PRETTY... AND REALLY SMART, TOO.
SHE EVEN HAS AN OKAY PERSON-ALITY.
I-- I WASN'T...
DON'T YOU DARE ASK ME IF THEY'RE FURRY OR DELICIOUS OR SOMETHING.
JUST THE OTHER DAY, THIS GUY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL ASKED HER OUT--BUT SHE TURNED HIM DOWN!
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE ISN'T POPULAR WITH THE GUYS.

KYAAH-- GO GET 'EM!
WELL, I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ANYWAY.
NOPE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?
REALLY?
HMM...
IT'S SENSEI.

NOT THAT SENSEI... SENSEI.
DUH. OF COURSE SENSEI'S HERE. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED P.E. CLASS.
HUH?

I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
...FOR SOME REASON, THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.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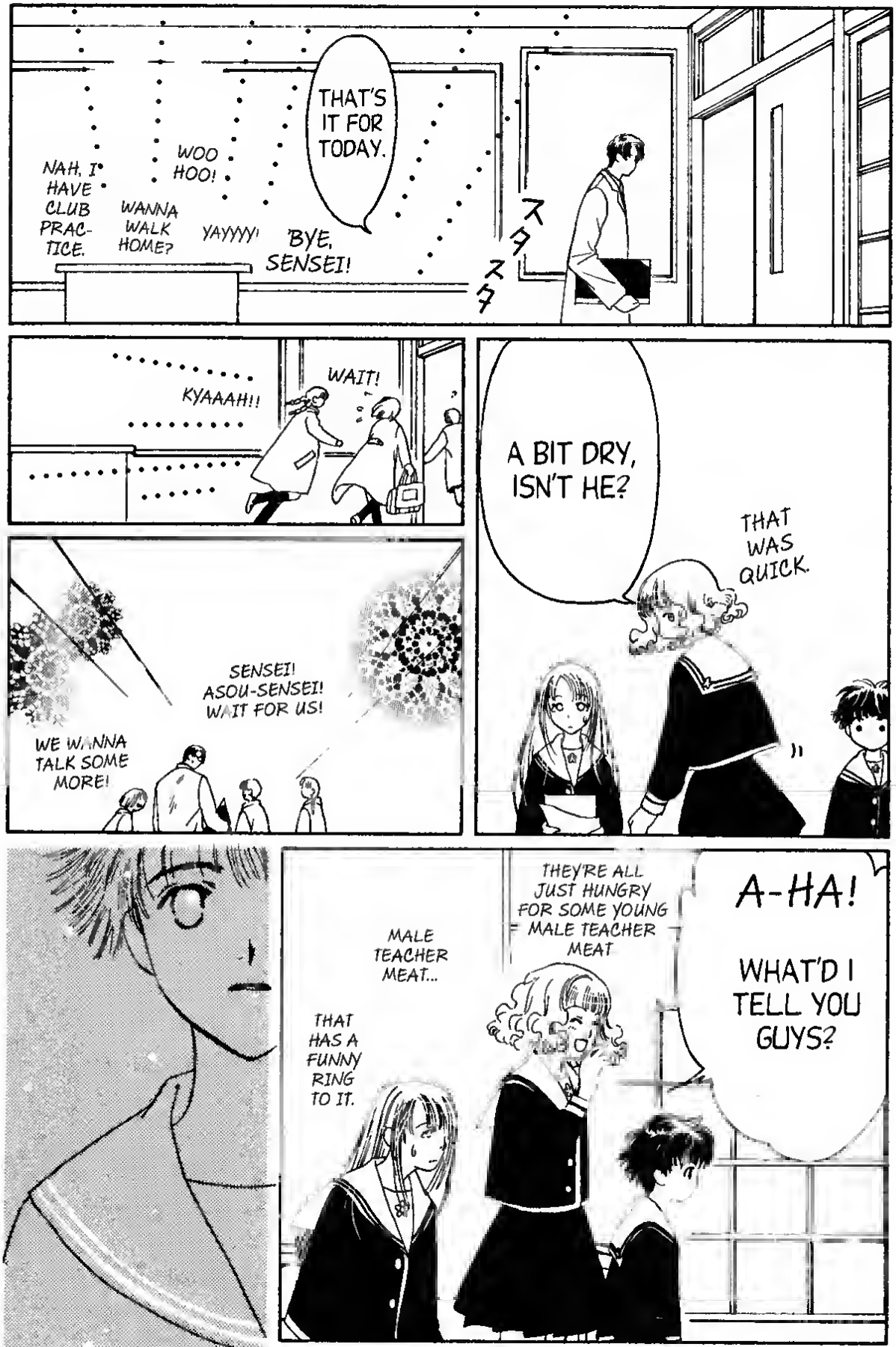
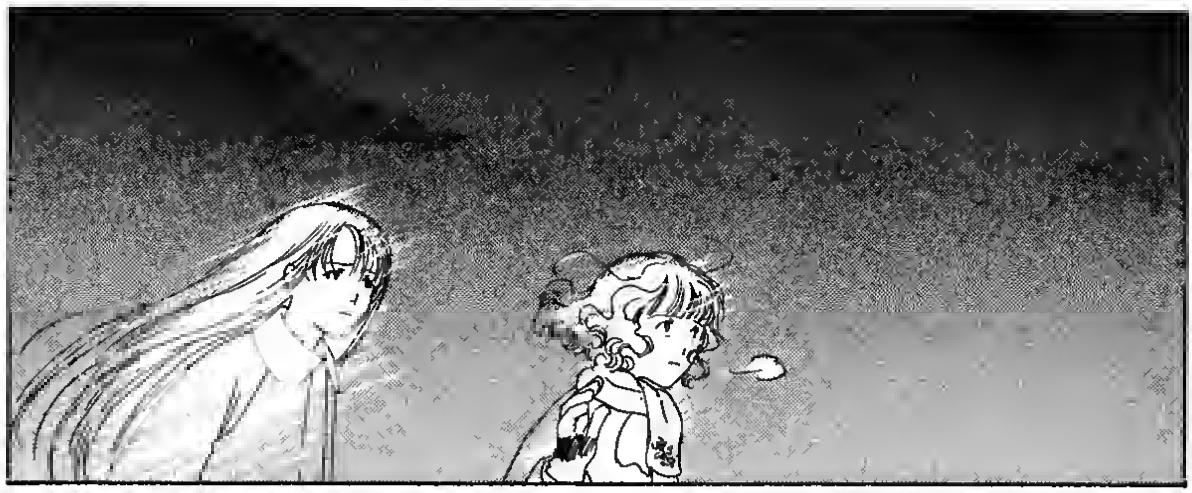
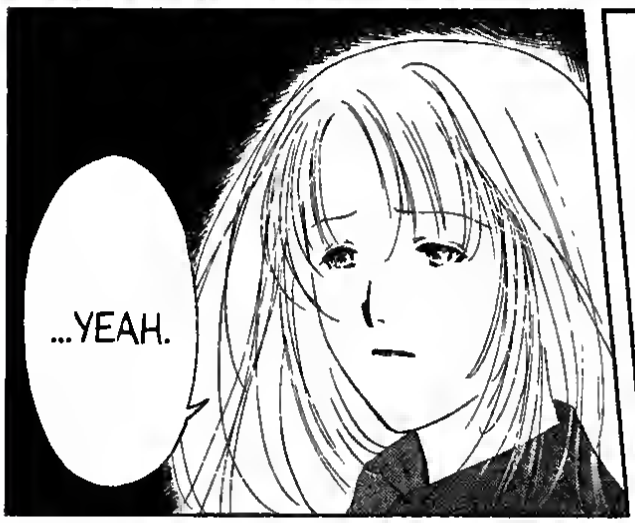
THESE WILL BE DUE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
THE REST IS DUE NEXT MONDAY.

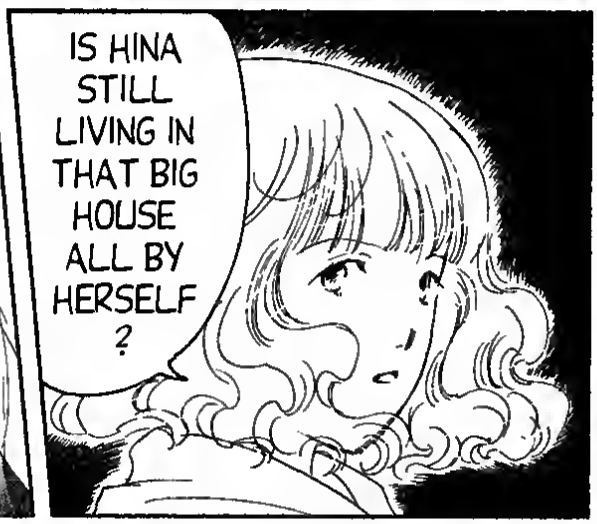

THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
'BYE, SENSEI!
スタスタ
NAH, I HAVE CLUB PRAC-TICE.
WOO HOO!
WANNA WALK HOME?
YAYYYY!
KYAAAH!!
WAIT!
SENSEI! ASOU-SENSEI! WAIT FOR US!
WE WANNA TALK SOME MORE!
A BIT DRY, ISN'T HE?
THAT WAS QUICK.
A-HA!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU GUYS?
THEY'RE ALL JUST HUNGRY FOR SOME YOUNG MALE TEACHER MEAT
MALE TEACHER MEAT...
THAT HAS A FUNNY RING TO IT.

...HINA ?
C'MON SENSEI... YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE FUN!
Yeah!
SERIOUSLY!
WHAT IS IT?
HUH?
AYUP.
AH HA HA
I WAS?
YOU WERE STARING INTO SPACE.
WHAT ?
IT'S NOT SPRING BREAK YET, HINA
HUH?

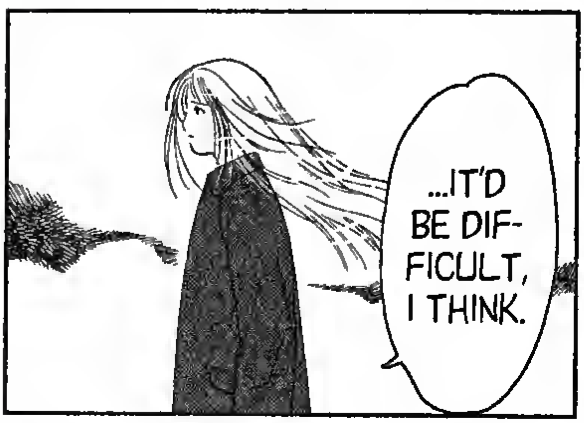
I NEED TO GO BUY SOME MILK.
OH!
THAT BIG BLACK CAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD BOSS CAT HAS BEEN COMING BY THE HOUSE TO PLAY!
HE'S BEEN COMING BY TO DRINK MILK EVER SINCE!
YUP! I COULD NEVER HUG HIM, BUT THEN SENSEI TOSSED HIM TO ME THE OTHER DAY!
YEAH--PRETTY AMBIGUOUS PHRASING THERE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CAT?
...AND CHUBBY AND BLACK.
HE'S SO FUZZY AND SOFT...
ANYWAY, I BETTER DROP BY THE SUPER-MARKET!
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW!
ALL RIGHT BE CARE-FUL!



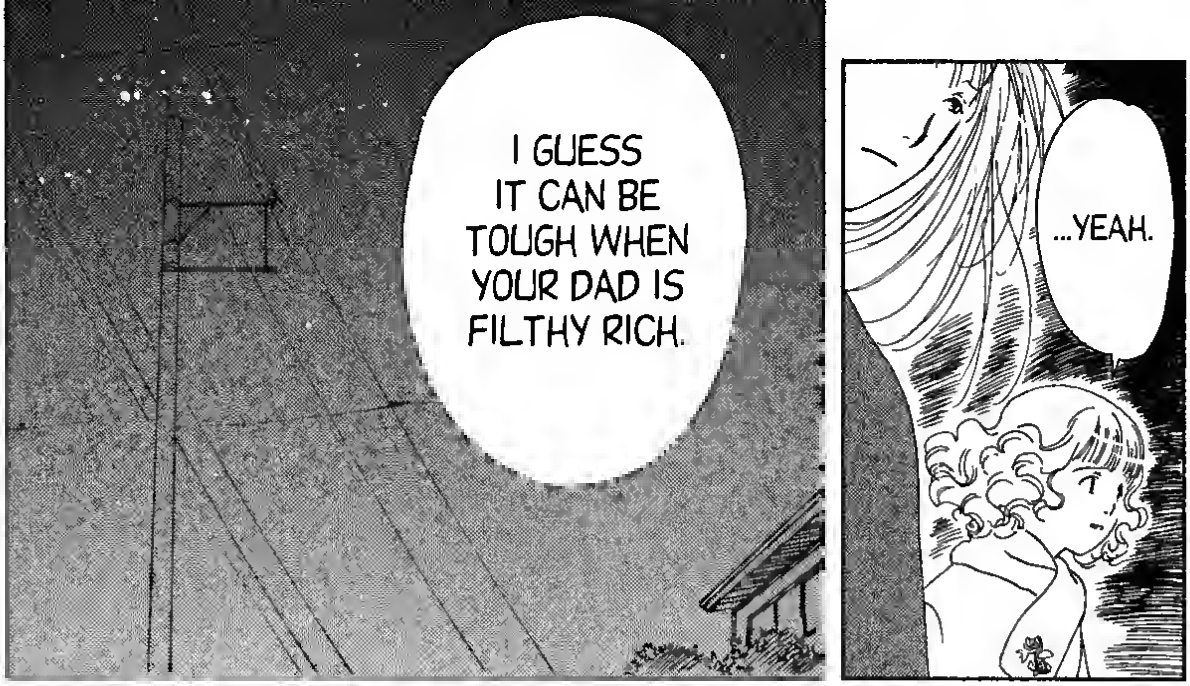

...YEAH.


IS HINA STILL LIVING IN THAT BIG HOUSE ALL BY HERSELF ?

TOUKO, YOU'RE HINA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ?


...IT'D BE DIF-FICULT, I THINK.

I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
...I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE FOR HER TO BE LIVING THERE ALL ALONE.
...I KNOW.

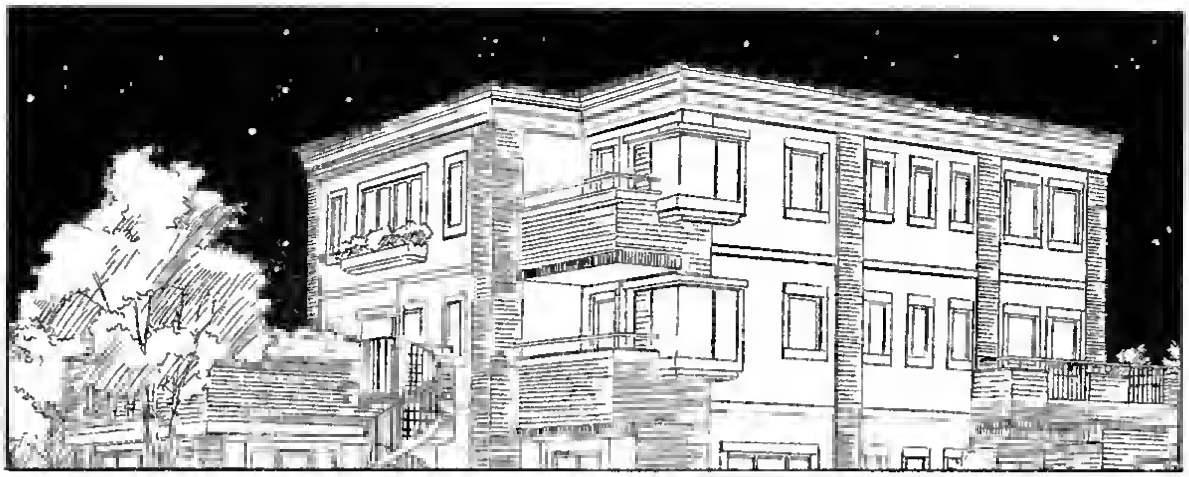

I GUESS IT CAN BE TOUGH WHEN YOUR DAD IS FILTHY RICH.
...YEAH.

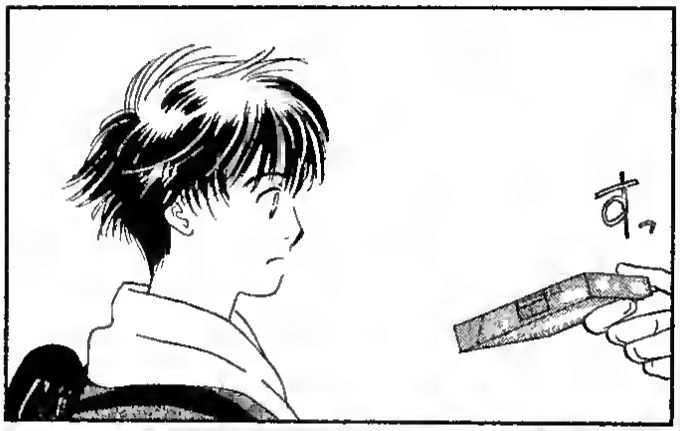
YELLOW CHICK, YELLOW CHICK WHY DO YOU TURN WHITE?
DOES ALL YOUR FUZZY FUR DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT? IT'S ALL SO STRANGE, IT'S ALL SO STRANGE... (REPEAT AD NAUSEUM)

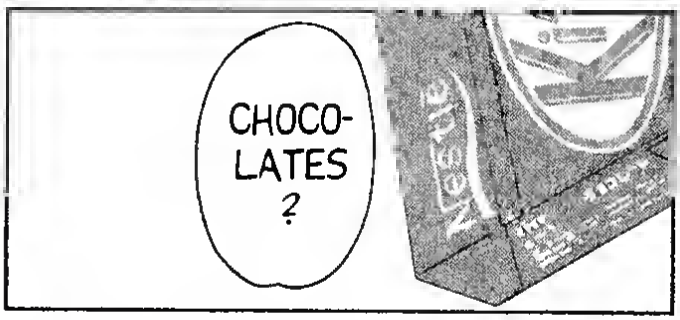
SENSEI!
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?!
IT WOULD SEEM SO.
DAMN... SHE'S FAST.
とたたた

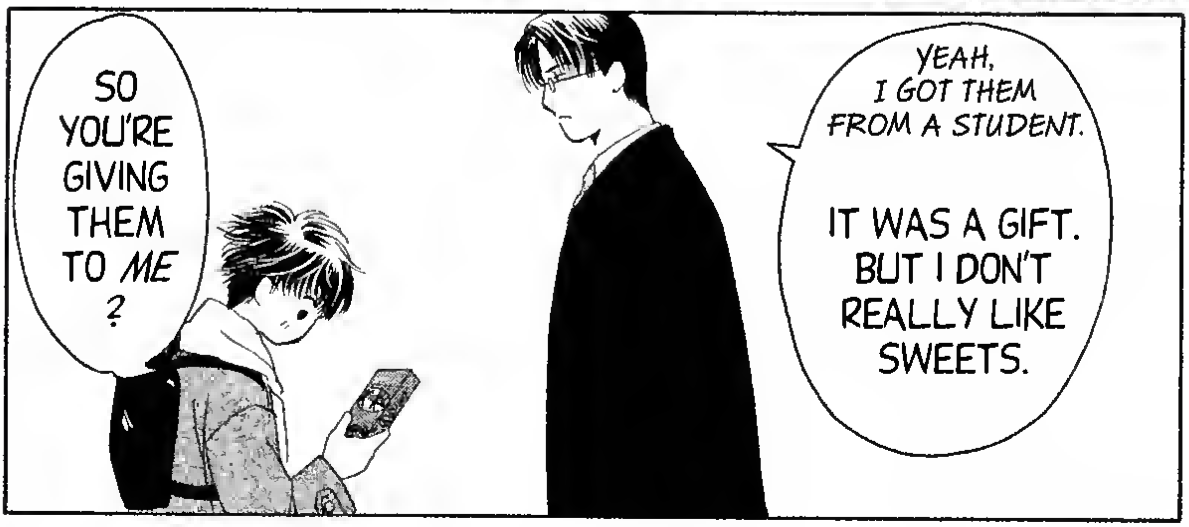
WELL... CAN I WALK HOME WITH YOU?
ALL THE SAME TO ME.
WE'RE HEADED THE SAME WAY ANYHOW.
I DIDN'T.
SENSEI... WHAT DID YOU EAT FOR BREAKFAST TODAY?
YIPPEE!
YOU DIDN'T EAT?! WHY?
WASN'T CONVEN-IENT, I GUESS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR DINNER?
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU SOME PANCAKES.
THAT'S NO GOOD. YOU HAVE TO EAT RIGHT!
HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS EAT 'TIL I'M FULL!
WELL, YOU WON'T HAVE ENERGY FOR ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T EAT PROPERLY! AN EMPTY STOMACH CAN ONLY LEAD TO SADNESS.






CHOCO-
LATES
?


SO YOU'RE GIVING THEM TO *ME* ?
YEAH, I GOT THEM FROM A STUDENT.
IT WAS A GIFT. BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE SWEETS.

THANK YOU!!
WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM, THROW THEM AWAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D EAT THEM.
I LOVE CHOCO-LATES.
I LOVE GETTING GIFTS.

ONCE MORE, SHIRO ASOU-SENSEI...
DOES SOMETHING I LOVE.
I HOPE THIS FEELING NEVER ENDS.

To Next

3

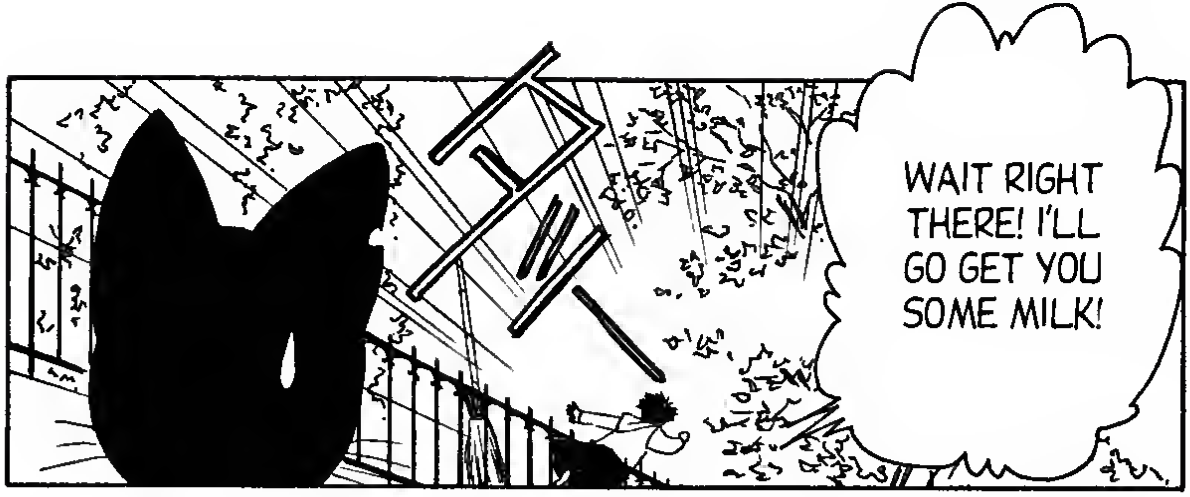
# SUKI™

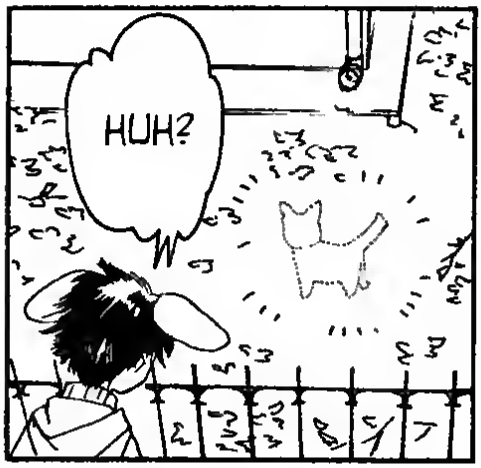
I LOVE TO BE TOUCHED.

I LOVE BEING TREATED KINDLY.

I LOVE HAVING THINGS I LOVE DONE TO ME!

SUNDAY IS A WONDERFUL SOMEDAY!
SCHOOL'S OUT, BOO-HOO,
BUT I'VE GOT LOTS TO DO!
SUNDAYS CAN BE KINDA BUSY
LET'S DO CHORES TIL WE ALL GET DIZZY!
GOTTA DO DISHES, GOTTA DO LAUNDRY...
RUSTLE
OH, WHAT A QUAN-DARY...
HEY!
NYANKO !!


WAIT RIGHT THERE! I'LL GO GET YOU SOME MILK!

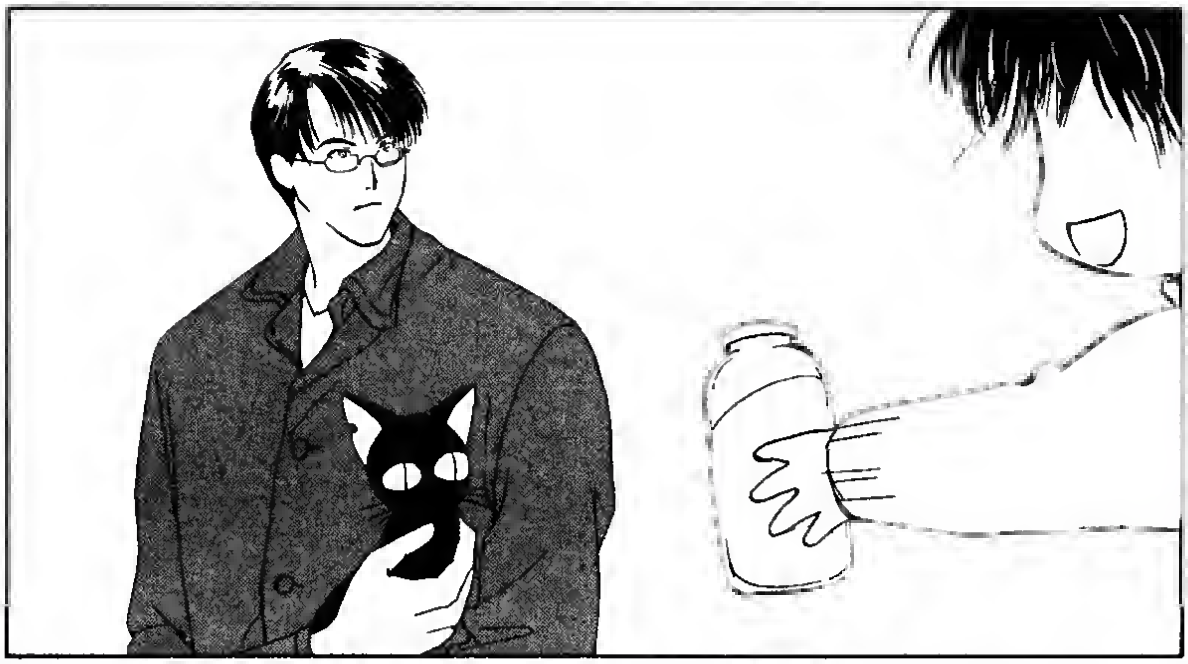

HUH?

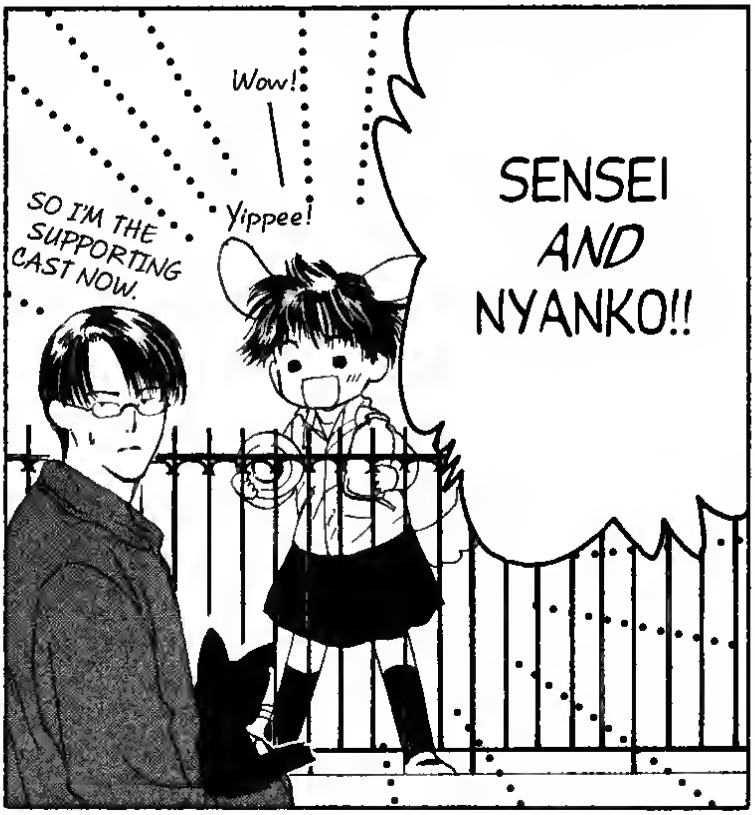
MILK
HERE YOU GO!

NYANKO?!
HERE, KITTY KITTY! MILK FOR YOU!!

HEY
HEY
...HE'S GONE.

SOB!
MAYBE HE COULDN'T WAIT AND JUST WENT HOME.




SENSEI AND NYANKO!!
Wow!
Yippee!
SO I'M THE SUPPORTING CAST NOW.

ぺちゃ ぺちゃ

WELL, SO DO YOU.
SO--LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF, SENSEI!
I...?
I...
BUT SOME TEACHERS GO TO SCHOOL ON SUNDAYS, TOO. RIGHT?
YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF SWEEPING, WEREN'T YOU?
IIIIIIII
I.....?

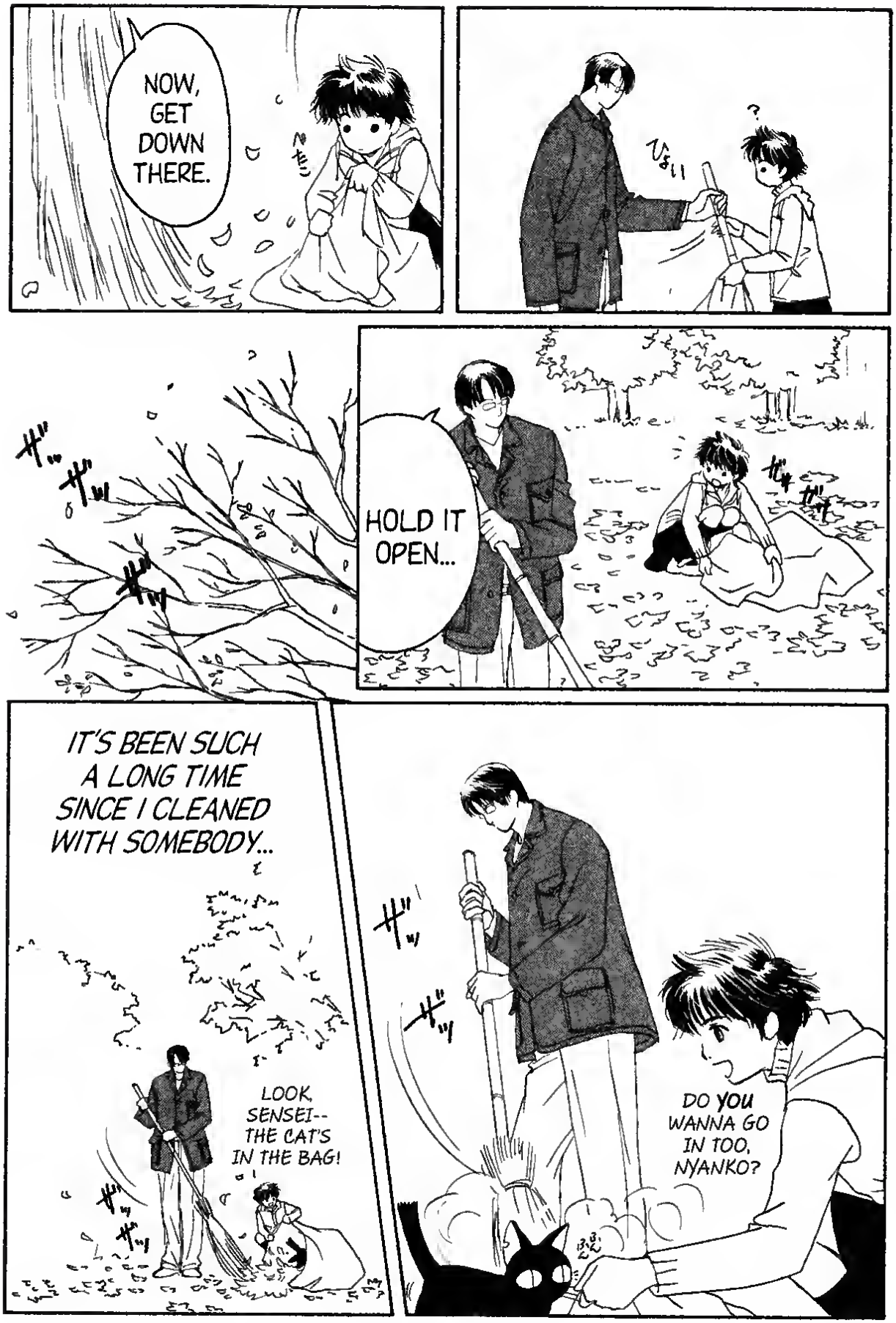
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ENOUGH TO BOTHER WITH.
I WAS COLLECTING LEAVES!
Y'SEE, I LIVE ALONE.
I KNOW. BUT I SHOULD CLEAN UP WHENEVER I REMEMBER TO.
I LOVE CLEANING UP!
BESIDES, THE LEAVES ARE SO PRETTY!
SWEEP SWEEP

MAYBE I COULD CLEAN UP YOUR YARD TOO, SENSEI!
HEY!
わくわく
I ALWAYS WANTED TO CLEAN UP THIS PLACE!
YOUR HOUSE WAS EMPTY FOR SO LONG THAT THE LEAVES REALLY PILED UP!
'CAUSE NOBODY WAS AROUND TO SWEEP 'EM.
YIPPEE !!
...OKAY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU CAN GET IN FROM HERE.
のこのこ
TO YOUR HOUSE, SILLY.
BUT THE FENCE...
WHOA!

WOWWW!
YOU SURE ARE STRONG, SENSEI!
EH. YOU'RE JUST LIGHT.
トーン
YEAH... YOU SURE YOU'RE EATING ENOUGH?
ME? LIGHT?
AND LATELY I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT COOKING MY OWN STUFF!
UH-HUH! I LOVE TO EAT!
I LOVE BREAD AND UDON AND PASTA, TOO!

O-KAY! LET'S START CLEANING!
LET'S SWEEP UP THIS PILE OF LEAVES.. TIME TO WORK. ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES!
OH--I GET IT!
YOU'RE GONNA THROW THEM AWAY, HUH?!
IF YOU UNDER-STAND, THEN TAKE THE BAG.
WELL, WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH ALL THESE LEAVES ?
HM ?
A GAR-BAGE BAG?


NOW, GET DOWN THERE.
HOLD IT OPEN...
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I CLEANED WITH SOMEBODY...
LOOK, SENSEI-- THE CAT'S IN THE BAG!
DO you WANNA GO IN TOO, NYANKO?

...SOMETHING ELSE I LOVE TO DO.
ガサガサ
HEY, SENSEI... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S FULL!
WELL, WE HAVE TO DO YOUR HOUSE NEXT, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU MEAN... YOU WANNA GO TO MY HOUSE?!
MAY AS WELL.
ひょい
WELL? HURRY UP.
OKAY !!

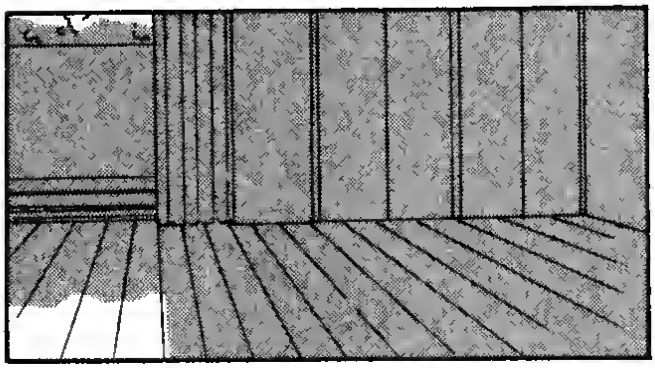
GOOD WORK.
WE GOT A LOT DONE, DIDN'T WE, NYANKO?
PURRRRR
SENSEI!
DO YOU LIKE PANCAKES ?!

THEN... WHY DON'T WE EAT PANCAKES TOGETHER?!
NOPE. DIDN'T EAT BREAK-FAST EITHER.
WELL--DID YOU EAT LUNCH ALREADY?!
HMM... ...I DON'T HATE THEM.
WHY?
?
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR A TEACHER TO EAT WITH A STUDENT... AT HER HOUSE... FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON?

WELL, I'M SURE THEY'RE DELICIOUS.
INFORM-ATION?
...IT SEEMS MY INFORMATION WAS CORRECT.
YOUR PAN-CAKES.
HUH?
どきどきどきどき
...I'LL STAY, THEN.
YIPPEE!!
THEY SURE ARE!

ER... WHAT'S WITH THE TEDDY BEARS?
ONE TEA WITH NO SUGAR OR MILK.
HERE YOU GO!
ニュ
ニュ
カチャ カチャ
WE ALWAYS EAT TOGETHER!
OH--AND THEY SAY HELLO AND GOODBYE TO ME, TOO.
THIS IS WAKA, THIS IS TONO.
TONO
WAKA
OH--YOU MEAN TONO AND WAKA?

WANNA TRY SOME TIGER BUTTER... ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THAT BUTTER... PANCAKES. —PANCAKES LOOK SO NICE...
FOOD'LL BE READY IN JUST A SEC.



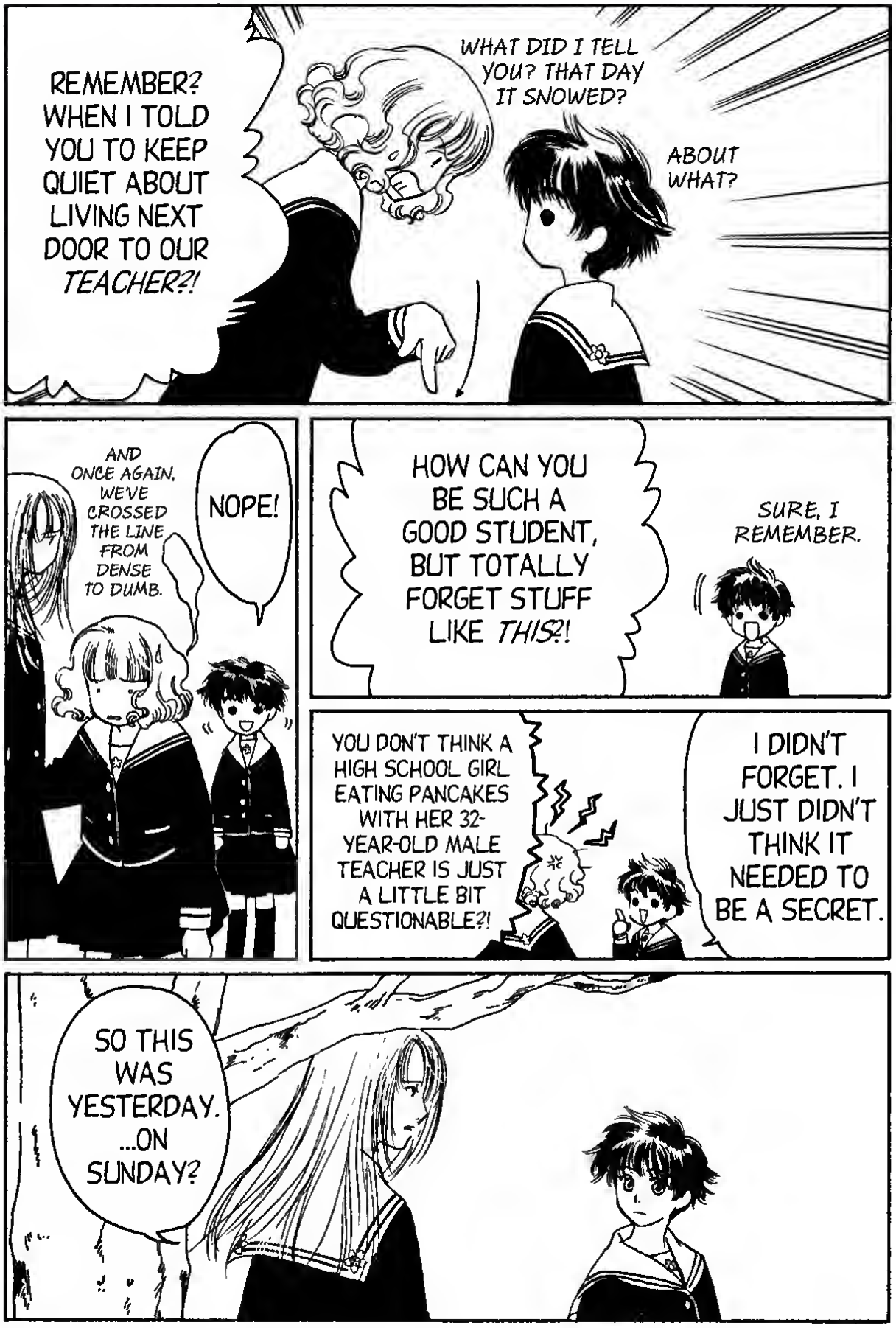
ALLLL READY!
HERE YA GO!
YOU REALLY DO LIVE ALONE... DON'T YOU?
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
...THANK YOU.

WELL... DIG IN!
どきどきどきどき
H... HOW IS IT?!
...NOT BAD.
REALLY ?!
WHY WOULD I LIE?
I'M SO GLAD!
I'M GONNA EAT NOW TOO, 'KAY?
OH GOOD-- THEY COOKED ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE MIDDLE!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE DONE THIS WITH ANYONE BESIDES EMI-CHAN AND TOUKO-CHAN.
I'M EATING WITH SOMEONE AT MY HOUSE.
WE'RE EATING TOGETHER.
BUT IT TASTES SO MUCH BETTER WHEN YOU EAT IT WITH SOMEONE YOU LIKE!
FOOD IS DELICIOUS, EVEN WHEN I'M BY MYSELF.
I LOVE IT.
I LIKE EATING WITH SOMEONE.
PLEASE, HAVE SOME MORE-- THERE'S PLENTY!
I MEAN, I LOVE PANCAKES TOO. BUT I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
UH, NO!
HUH?
YOU MEAN THE PANCAKES?

1-D
Outo Private High School for Girls
GOOD MORNING!!
ぴょん
ぴょん
GOOD MORNING, HINA.
MORN-ING.
YOU'VE GOT EVEN MORE OF A SPRING IN YOUR STEP THAN USUAL.
LIKE A BUNNY RABBIT!
THAT'S 'CAUSE I ATE PANCAKES WITH SENSEI AT MY HOUSE!

WELL, YOU SHOULD SAVE YOUR FILES EVERY NOW AND AGAIN
AND Y'KNOW, MY COMPUTER'S ALWAYS FREEZING UP AT THE WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT!
MMMPH MMPH!
ばん
LET'S GO OUTSIDE.
ずるずる
EMI-CHAN-- MMPHH HHH!
もご
もご
PHEW... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE HEARD
YOU ARE SO DENSE!!


REMEMBER? WHEN I TOLD YOU TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT LIVING NEXT DOOR TO OUR TEACHER?!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THAT DAY IT SNOWED?
ABOUT WHAT?
NOPE!
AND ONCE AGAIN, WE'VE CROSSED THE LINE FROM DENSE TO DUMB.
HOW CAN YOU BE SUCH A GOOD STUDENT, BUT TOTALLY FORGET STUFF LIKE THIS?!
SURE, I REMEMBER.
YOU DON'T THINK A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL EATING PANCAKES WITH HER 32-YEAR-OLD MALE TEACHER IS JUST A LITTLE BIT QUESTIONABLE?!
I DIDN'T FORGET. I JUST DIDN'T THINK IT NEEDED TO BE A SECRET.
SO THIS WAS YESTERDAY. ...ON SUNDAY?

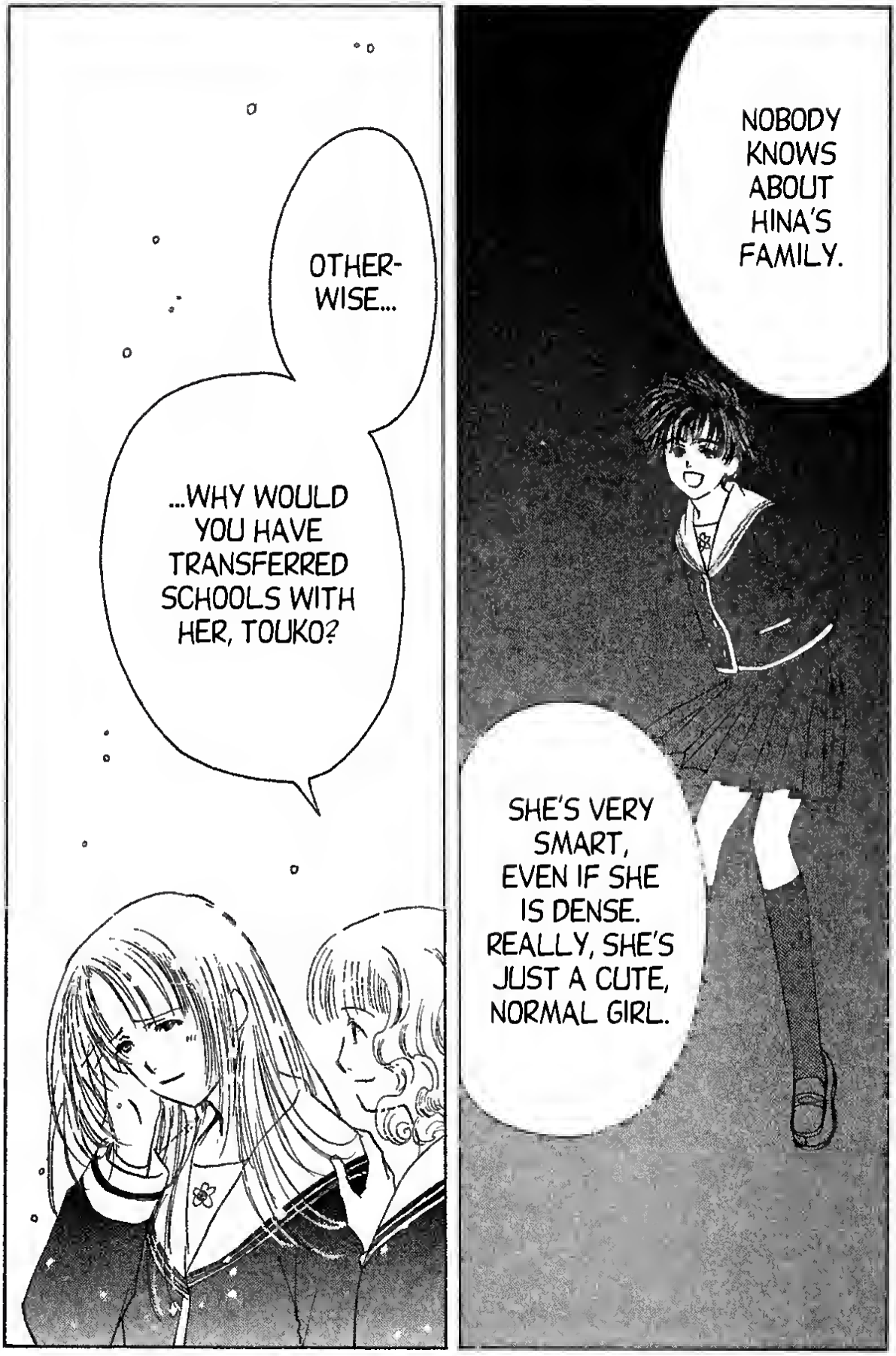
Y'SEE?!
YUP! WE CLEANED THE YARD TOGETHER, AND THEN WE ATE PANCAKES AT MY HOUSE!
...HINA...
IT'D BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I'D EATEN WITH ANYONE AT HOME! I WAS SO HAPPY!

IT'S JUST... I DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO BE ALONE WITH SENSEI.
...I SEE...
YOU SEE?
WELL ...
WHY?
LOOK, ASOU-SENSEI IS POPULAR WITH THE LADIES... EVEN WITH HIS *PERSONALITY*.

BUT IT MIGHT MATTER TO SENSEI.
THAT WOULDN'T MATTER TO ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HIS PERSONALITY?
THE OTHER GIRLS MIGHT GET JEALOUS, AND THAT COULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
BESIDES, WHAT IF HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?
REALLY... TROUBLE?
A GIRLFRIEND ...
HUH? WHY AM I SO SURPRISED?

OH!
WAIT-- DON'T YOU HAVE HOME-ROOM DUTY TODAY, HINA?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE CLASS-ROOM!
I GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TEACH COMMON SENSE.
SEE YOU GUYS LATER!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY *INCIDENTS* HAPPEN...
HINA IS SO... SHE'S JUST SO FRIENDLY AND TRUSTING.
THAT'S WHY SHE...
HINA SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO ENJOY HER NEW LIFE IN THIS TOWN.
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES AT THIS SCHOOL WHO KNOW.


NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT HINA'S FAMILY.
SHE'S VERY SMART, EVEN IF SHE IS DENSE. REALLY, SHE'S JUST A CUTE, NORMAL GIRL.
OTHER-WISE...
...WHY WOULD YOU HAVE TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS WITH HER, TOUKO?

WHOA!
GOTTA HURRY GOTTA HURRY
ひっ ひっ
たたたたたた
HUH?
SENSEI!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THAT WAS QUITE A BODY BLOW.
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, I'D'VE HIT THE FLOOR!
MIGHT HAVE HIT MY HEAD.

?
I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
WHAT?
WE DID WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER THIS MORNING.
I KNOW! BUT I'M GLAD ANYWAY!

HE REMEMBERED I HAD HOMEROOM DUTY!
I MEAN, HE IS MY HOMEROOM TEACHER, BUT IT STILL MAKES ME HAPPY!
OH. THAT'S RIGHT!
WELL, YOU HAVE HOMEROOM DUTY, RIGHT? SO, RUN ALONG.
ぱた ぱた ぱた
ぱた ぱた
SEE YA LATER, SENSEI!

HE REMEMBERS THINGS ABOUT ME.
HE DOES ALL THE THINGS I LOVE SO MUCH!
HE PATTED ME ON THE HEAD AGAIN.
SHIRO ASOU-SENSEI...
...I REALLY LIKE YOU!
To Next

4



SUKI™

A SERENDIPITOUS LOVE...

...I LOVE SERENDIPITY.

MY LOVE JUST GROWS AND GROWS.

BLINK
GOOD MORNING, WAKA! TONO!
ガバッ

SPRING'S ALREADY HERE!
I THINK I'LL LEAVE MY COAT AT HOME!
IT'S SO WARM TODAY!
I HOPE I GET TO SEE HIM SOON.
I WONDER IF SENSEI'S AWAKE?

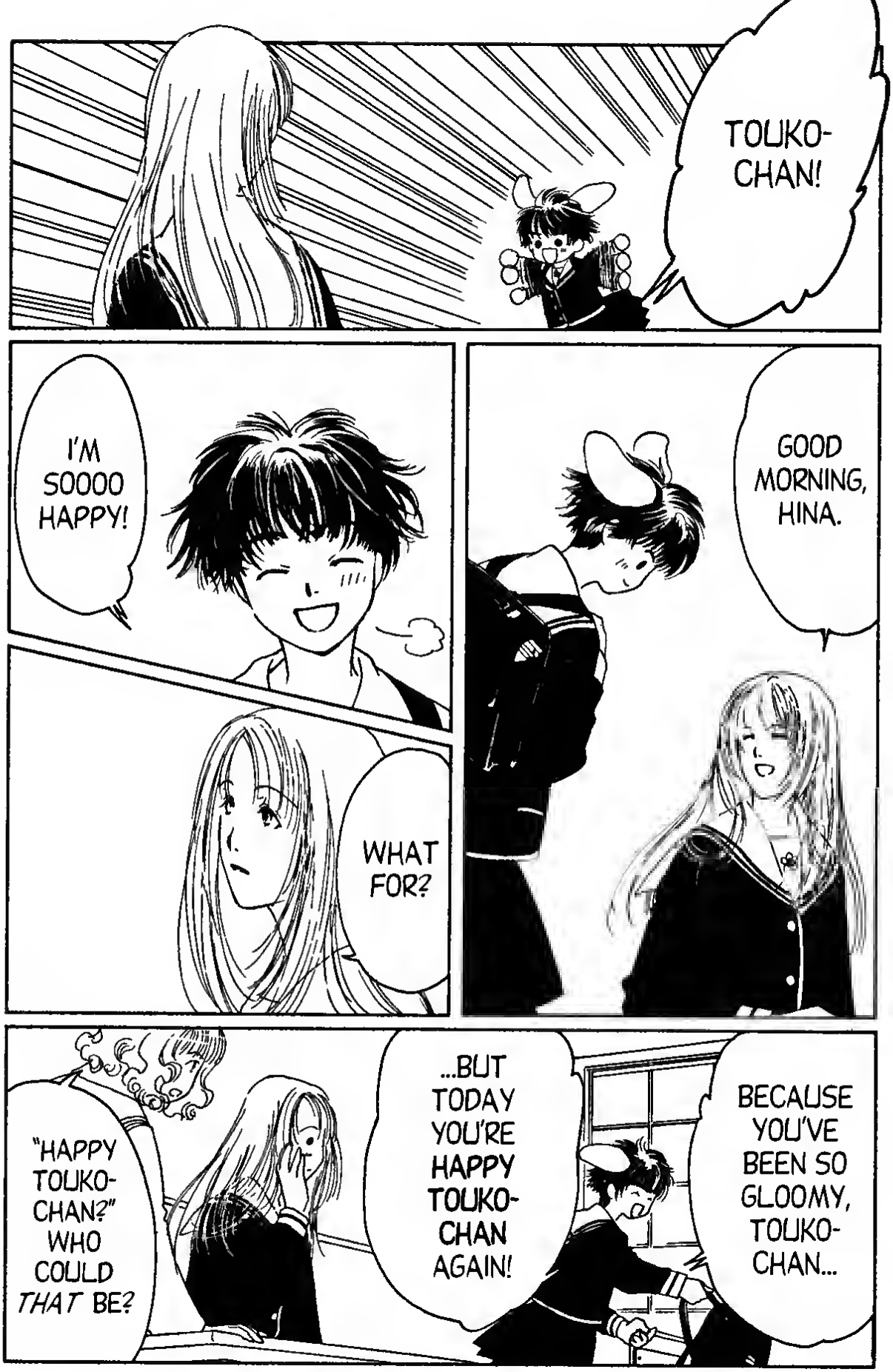
OH!
ガサ
ガサ
ガサ
SENSEI
!!

GOOD MORNING!
...WOW. YOU'RE LIKE A MONKEY.
A MONKEY?
Y'MEAN I CLIMB TREES LIKE A MONKEY?!
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
...I'D THINK MOST GIRLS WOULD BE INSULTED AT BEING COMPARED TO A MONKEY.
Yippee!
WHY? MONKEYS ARE CUTE!
BESIDES, YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR PAJAMAS.
I MEAN, YOU ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL
YUP... I AM STILL WEARING PAJAMAS. IT'S KINDA COLD, Y'KNOW?
Brrr
...THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

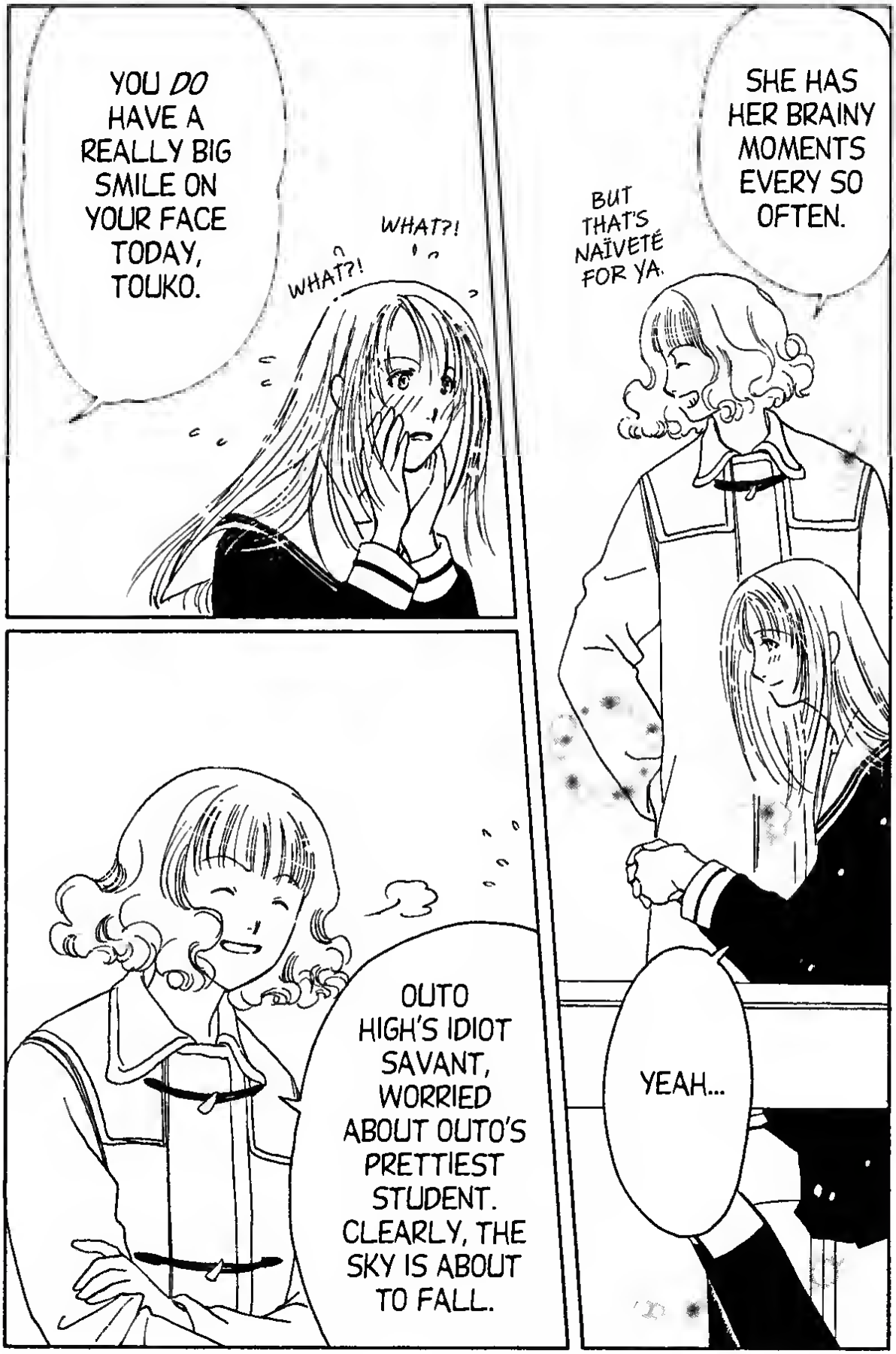
YOU REALLY ARE EXACTLY AS THEY DESCRIBED.
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY!
ASOU-SENSEI IS THINKING ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW.
IS HE REMEMBERING SOMETHING HE HEARD ABOUT ME?
WHAT?
NOTHING. I'M JUST HAPPY.

I LOVE THIS FEELING.

OH-- EMI-CHAN! GOOD MORNING!
YOU ALWAYS SING THE WEIRDEST SONGS, HINA!
KUMA-SAN, THE LITTLE BLACK BEAR IS BEST FRIENDS WITH BROWN KUMA-SAN. THERE HE GOES TO THE BAKER IN THE WOODS AND BUYS SOME BAUMKUCHEN--
13"
13"
SO GOOD! "KEEP THE CHANGE," HE TELLS THE BAKER.
YUP! THE WEATHER'S SO NICE! IT'S ALL WARM!
YOU'RE A BALL OF ENERGY... AS USUAL.
*Baumkuchen = A festive German holiday cake
1 D
AH HA HA HA
AH, OUR INNOCENT MAIDEN--ALWAYS FILLED WITH THE JOYS OF SPRINGTIME!
Morning!
Hey Hinata.
Good Morning!
GOOD MORNING!
HINA'S HERE. LET THE GAMES BEGIN.


TOUKO-CHAN!
I'M SOOOO HAPPY!
WHAT FOR?
GOOD MORNING, HINA.
"HAPPY TOUKO-CHAN?" WHO COULD THAT BE?
...BUT TODAY YOU'RE HAPPY TOUKO-CHAN AGAIN!
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SO GLOOMY, TOUKO-CHAN...

...THAT'S WHY I LOVE *HAPPY TOUKO-CHAN* SO MUCH!
TOUKO-CHAN'S SMILE IS SO GENTLE AND SOFT...
THE GIRL WITH TOUKO-CHAN'S SMILE!
...HINA.
BUT LATELY, EVEN WHEN TOUKO-CHAN SMILED, IT WAS DIFFERENT.
I JUST KNOW I'M GONNA GET CALLED ON TODAY.
HELP ME WITH THIS QUESTION, ASAHI!
OKAY!
OH--HERE. YOU JUST INSERT THIS NUMBER AS X...
ふむふむ


YOU *DO* HAVE A REALLY BIG SMILE ON YOUR FACE TODAY, TOUKO.
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
SHE HAS HER BRAINY MOMENTS EVERY SO OFTEN.
BUT THAT'S NAÏVETÉ FOR YA.
YEAH...
OUTO HIGH'S IDIOT SAVANT, WORRIED ABOUT OUTO'S PRETTIEST STUDENT. CLEARLY, THE SKY IS ABOUT TO FALL.

COOKING CLASSROOM
えっ えっ
THAT CHINESE FRYING PAN IS HEAVY ENOUGH. GO FOR IT!
DO PEOPLE *USUALLY* GET THAT EXCITED OVER MAKING HAPPOSAI ?
WELL, THAT'S HINA FOR YOU.
WHAT'S THAT, ASAHI? YOU **DID IT?** WAY TO GO, HINATA!
I DID IT! I DID IT!
I DID IT!
YEESH-- NOT SO LOUD!
munch
TRY IT!

*Happosai = stirfried vegetables

REALLY.
REALLY ?!
YEAH-- NOT BAD, HINA!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS.
wag
wag
ALL RIGHT! NOW I HAVE ANOTHER RECIPE!
MAYBE I CAN COOK THIS FOR SENSEI.

キーコーン
カーコーン
キーコーン
HEY-- WANNA GO OUT FOR RAMEN ON THE WAY HOME?
SORRY, I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN.
THE BOOK-STORE.
STOOD UP FOR *BOOKS*? SHEESH, DO YOU REALLY NEED TO GET ANY SMARTER, HINA?
IT'S JUST A PICTURE BOOK.
WELL... AT LEAST *THAT* SUITS YOU.

YOU MEAN THE ONE YOU SHOWED US... WITH THE BEAR?
THE NEW ONE'S COMING OUT TODAY.
THIS IS A REALLY *GOOD* BOOK, THOUGH. IT'S BY ONE OF MY FAVORITE AUTHORS!
SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE A *KID* AND ALL.
ﾍﾍﾍ
THAT'S THE ONE!
OKAY! SEE YA TOMOR-ROW!
THAT'S OKAY. NEXT TIME.
SORRY I CAN'T GO, EMI-CHAN.

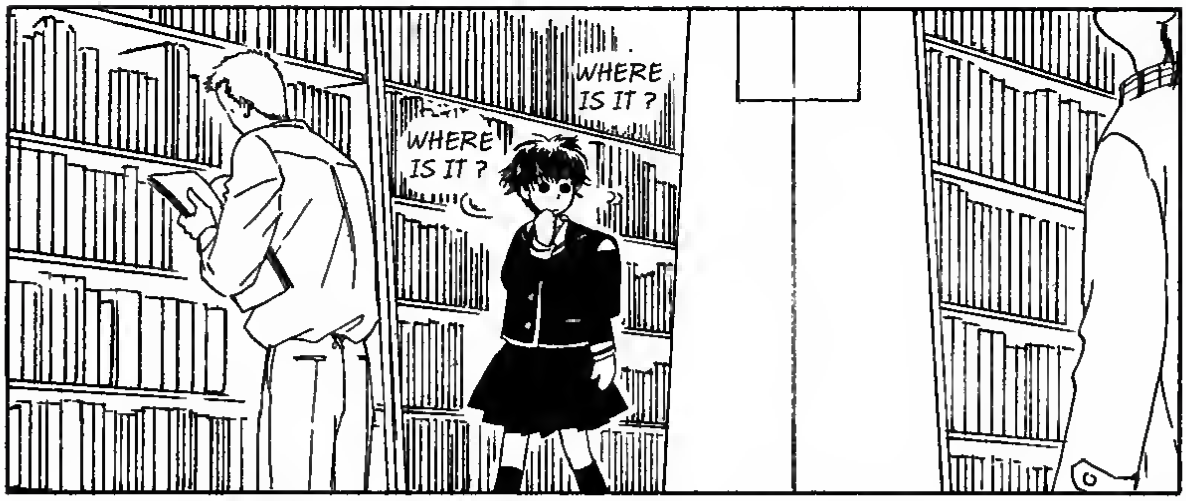
I WONDER IF HINA IS EATING BY HERSELF AGAIN TONIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I INVITED HER.
IT MAY NOT BE HOME COOKING, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN EATING ALONE.
I WISH I COULD KEEP HER COMPANY, BUT HER FATHER...
WHAT ABOUT HINA'S FATHER?
...HE TOLD ME IT WAS HINA'S DECISION TO LIVE BY HERSELF.
HER DECISION? HMM...
HE SAID HINA DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY TROUBLE FOR ANYONE ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY SHE DECIDED TO LIVE BY HERSELF. SO SHE WOULDN'T MAKE ANYONE ELSE SAD.

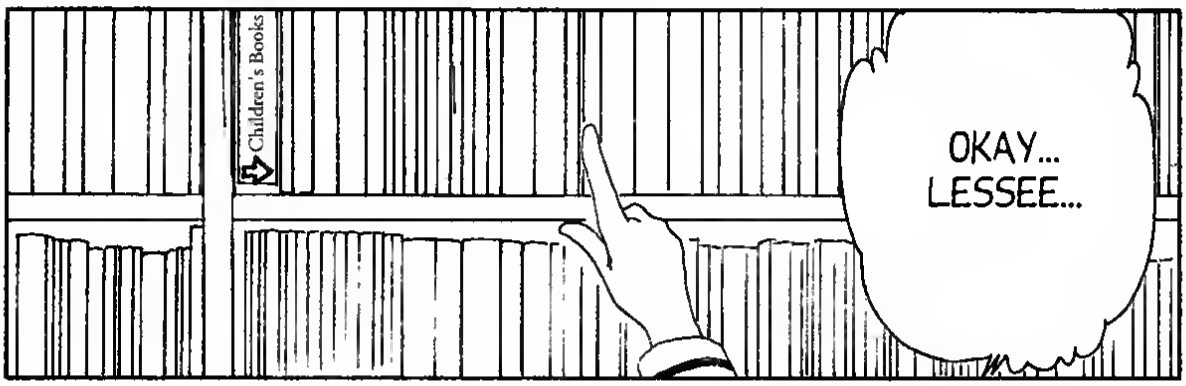
WORK, HUH...?
I DON'T KNOW.
HE'S ALWAYS BUSY WITH WORK, SO I'VE ONLY MET HIM A FEW TIMES.
AND... HINA'S DAD IS *OKAY* WITH THIS?
WELL, HE *IS* THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS SCHOOL.
*MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PRINCIPAL, EVEN.*
...YEAH.
HINA'S MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE, RIGHT?
AND HE OWNS A BUNCH OF OTHER COMPANIES, TOO. SO I GUESS HE *WOULD* BE THAT BUSY.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT HINA'S FATHER'S GOT ISSUES.
...YEAH.
TEE HEE
KYA!
NO...
OOOOH... SENSEI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FORGET SOME-THING, SENSEI?

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
SEEMS HE DIDN'T FIND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.
.....
HEY-- SENSEI!
WAIT FOR US, -- SENSEI! SENSEIII!
TOUKO-CHAN? WHAT'S WRONG?
ASOU-SENSEI...
...WAS LOOKING AT HINA'S DESK.

I WONDER IF SENSEI'S STILL AT SCHOOL?
I JUST RUSHED RIGHT OUT OF THERE TODAY.
USUALLY WE WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL TOGETHER.
TRA LA LA.. LET'S BUY BOOKS, SOME BOOKS, SOME BOOKS! BOOKS ARE WHAT I LIKE TO LOOK! AND WHAT'S EVEN MORE AMAZING SOME USE BOOKS AS PILLOW-CASINGS!
MARUKAWA
I HOPE MY BOOK IS IN!
IT'S PROBABLY USUALLY JUST A COINCI-DENCE... BUT IT STILL MAKES ME HAPPY.


WHERE IS IT ?
WHERE IS IT ?


Children's Books
OKAY... LESSEE...

HERE IT IS!!

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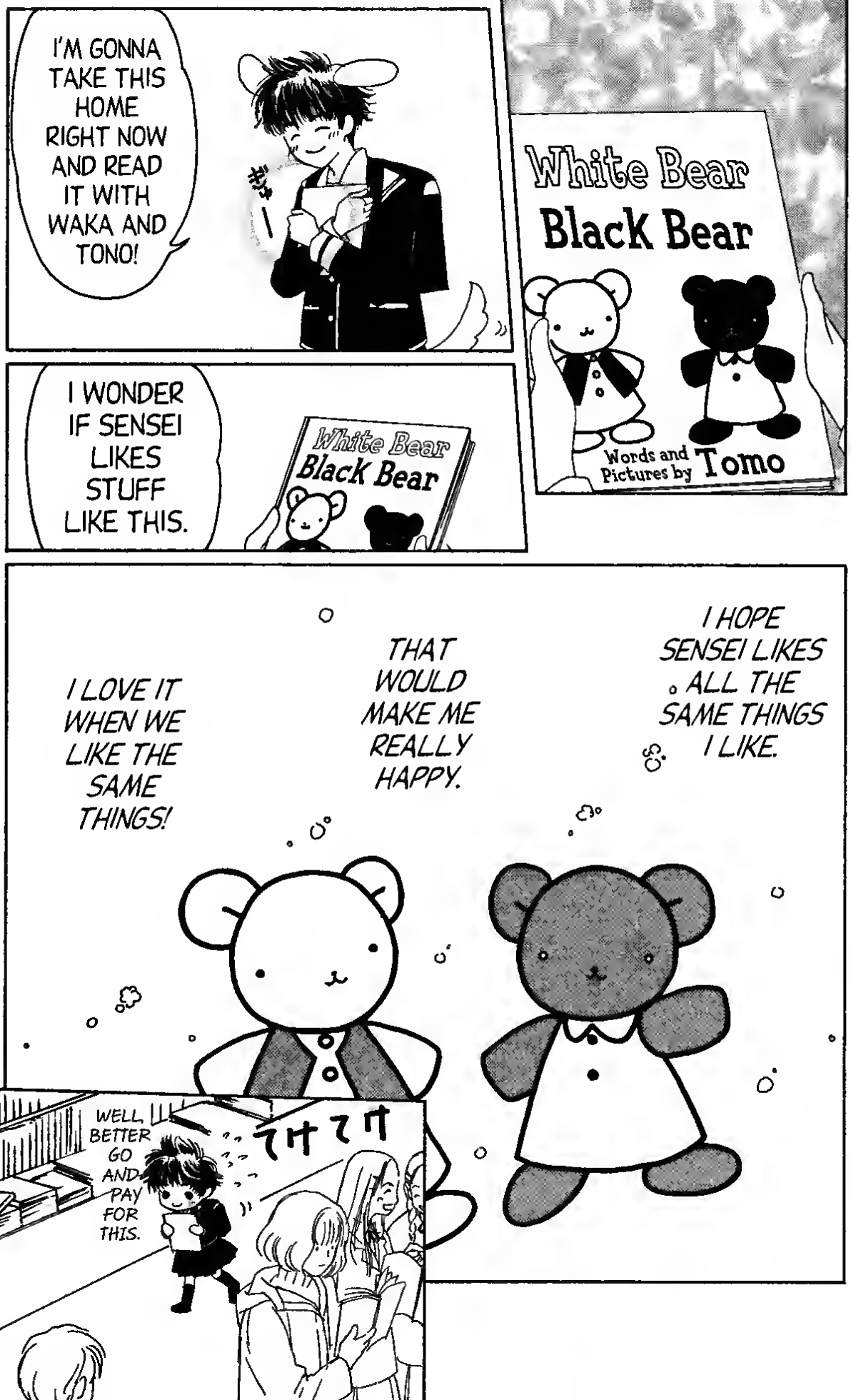
MR. BEAR,
MR. BEAR...
I HOPE I HOPE I HOPE IT'S THERE-- IF IT IS, I'M GONNA BUY IT AND READ IT ON THE SPOT...


I'M GONNA TAKE THIS HOME RIGHT NOW AND READ IT WITH WAKA AND TONO!
White Bear
Black Bear
Words and Pictures by Tomo
I WONDER IF SENSEI LIKES STUFF LIKE THIS.
White Bear
Black Bear
I HOPE SENSEI LIKES ALL THE SAME THINGS I LIKE.
THAT WOULD MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY.
I LOVE IT WHEN WE LIKE THE SAME THINGS!
WELL, BETTER GO AND PAY FOR THIS.
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IT'S SENSEI!
I RAN INTO HIM AGAIN!
SE...
SENSEI.
HUH?

WHO YOU CALLIN' SENSEI?
HMPH!
BUT YOU ARE AREN'T YOU? EVEN IF IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
LISTEN, I JUST DO WHAT THEY TELL ME.
EVEN KIZU WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS-- IT MUST'VE REALLY FLOORED HIM.
HMM
HA HA HA
I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S ONLY A JOB... BUT YOU SHAPING YOUNG MINDS?

HEE HEE
OH, DON'T WORRY. I'LL ENJOY IT AT *LEAST* UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE.
YEAH, LAUGH IT UP WHILE YOU CAN, TOMOAKI. SOON AS THIS JOB'S OVER...
ビシ
FINE, FINE. IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO MY HOUSE... I'D FEEL WEIRD JUST IGNORING YOU.
ANY-WAY, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO ME WHILE I'M WORKING.
LOOK, TOMOAKI. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS JOB, I WOULD...
AH, BUT COINCIDENCE CAN BE A SCARY THING, SHIRO. I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU-- YOU'VE BECOME A TEACHER AT AN ALL-GIRL SCHOOL.
THAT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE.

I WOULD... WHAT?
I WOULD WHAT?

WAS THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS?
...NO.
SOUNDS LIKE A FRIEND TO ME!
MORE LIKE AN UNSAVORY ACQUAIN-TANCE...
...JUST SOME-ONE I KNOW.

I'LL BET EMI-CHAN WOULD LOVE TO MEET HIM. TOUKO-CHAN SAYS EMI-CHAN'S PICKY ABOUT LOOKS.
HE WAS BEAUTIFUL ...
... REALLY COOL LOOKING!
HUH?
SO... HOW MUCH DID YOU HEAR?

?
OUR CONVERSATION AT THE BOOKSTORE... ME AND THAT GUY.
WELL, YOU'RE HERE ON BUSINESS-- RIGHT, SENSEI?

I'LL BET YOU SCHOOL-TEACHERS HAVE A REALLY TOUGH JOB.

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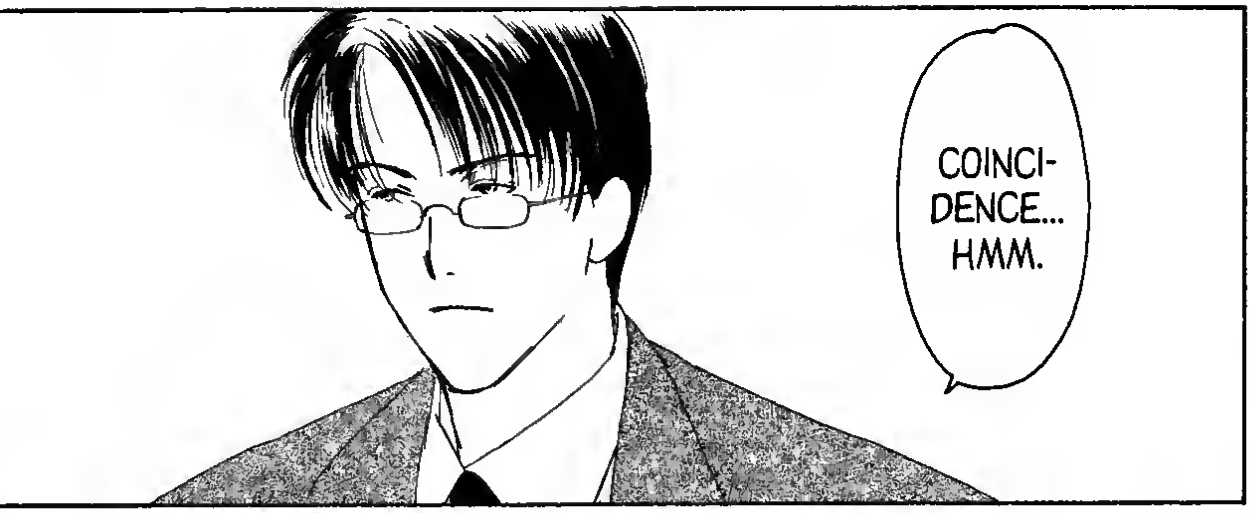
I MEAN, YOU COINCI-DENTALLY BECAME A SENSEI.
BY COINCIDENCE, YOU MOVED IN NEXT DOOR TO ME.
AND BY COINCIDENCE, YOU BECAME MY HOMEROOM TEACHER!
BUT *COINCIDENCES* REALLY ARE SOMETHING, AREN'T THEY ?!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL AMAZING!



*AND BY COINCIDENCE, I GOT TO MEET ASOU-SENSEI...*

To Next

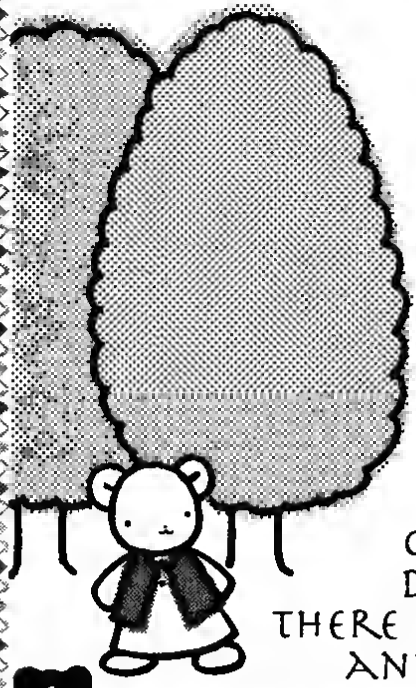
# Suki™

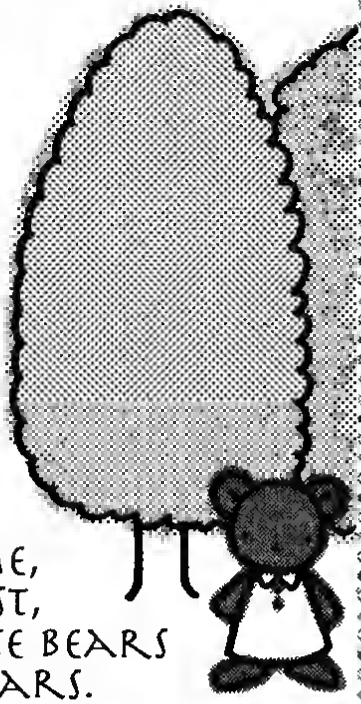
5

I LOVE MY FRIENDS.

I LOVE BEING FRIENDS.

BUT IS *ANOTHER* KIND OF LOVE
WHAT I REALLY WANT?





ONCE UPON A TIME,
DEEP IN THE FOREST,
THERE LIVED SOME WHITE BEARS
AND SOME BLACK BEARS.

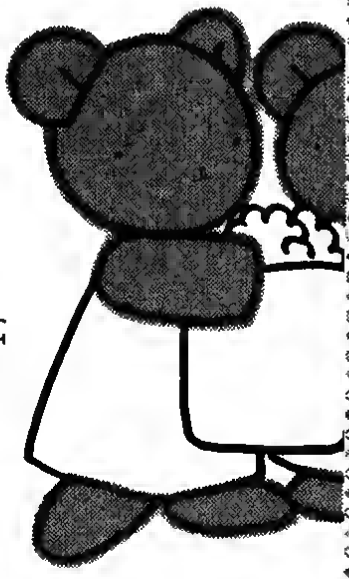
1

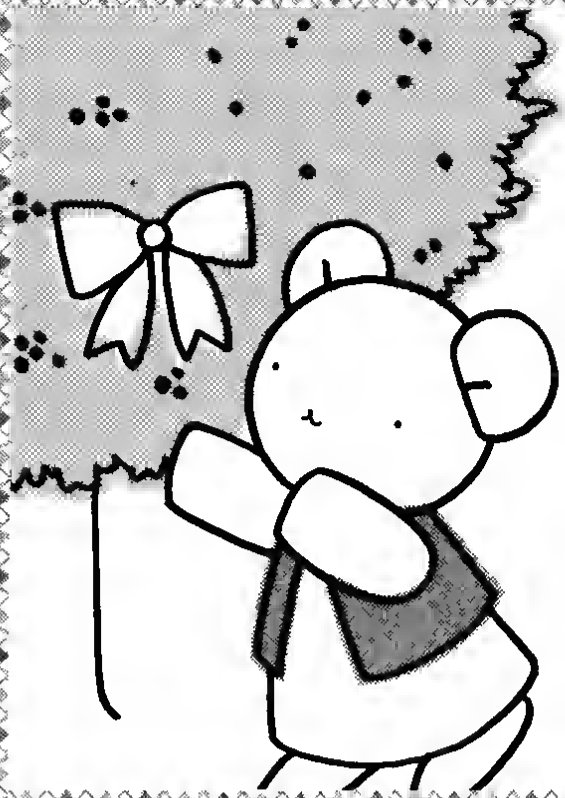
BUT THE WHITE BEARS AND THE BLACK BEARS
LIVED IN SEPARATE PARTS OF THE FOREST.

2

THE WHITE BEARS'
VILLAGE HAD ONLY
WHITE BEARS.
THE BLACK BEARS'
VILLAGE HAD ONLY
BLACK BEARS.

THEY NEVER SAW,
NOR SPOKE TO, EACH
OTHER. AND FOR A LONG
TIME, THAT'S HOW THE
WHITE BEARS AND THE
BLACK BEARS LIVED.
EACH GROUP THOUGHT
BEARS OF DIFFERENT
COLORS WOULD NOT
GET ALONG WITH
EACH OTHER.





THEN, ONE DAY...

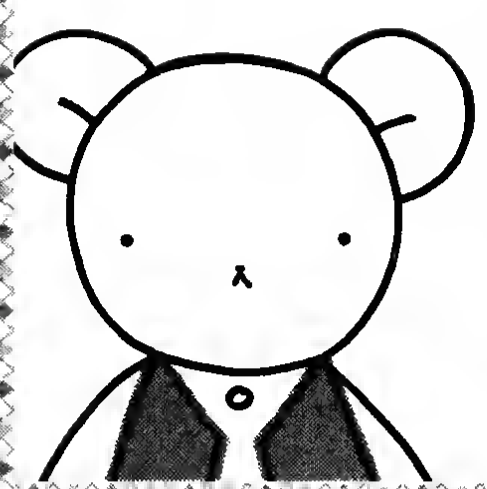
A YOUNG WHITE BEARWENT TO PICK RASPBERRIES AT THE FAR END OF THE FOREST.

HE HAD TIED A RIBBON TO A NEARLY-RIPE RASPBERRY TREE THE DAY BEFORE.

BUT WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE TREE, HE FOUND A BLACK BEAR STANDING NEXT TO IT.

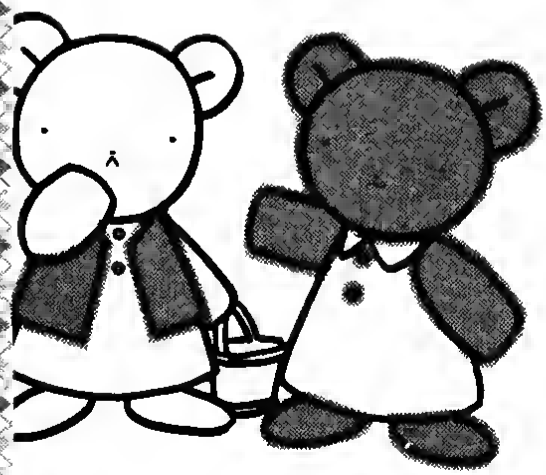
THE WHITE BEAR THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, "I TIED A RIBBON TO THAT TREE SO I COULD PICK RASPBERRIES FROM IT. BUT I'M SURE THAT BLACK BEAR HAS ALREADY PICKED ALL OF MY RASPBERRIES."

THE WHITE BEAR WAS DISAPPOINTED... HE WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO PICKING THOSE RASPBERRIES. SO HE SIGHED AND STARTED OFF TO SEARCH FOR ANOTHER TREE.



BUT THE BLACK BEAR CALLED TO THE WHITE BEAR: "WAIT!" WHEN THE WHITE BEAR TURNED, HE SAW THE BLACK BEAR SMILE. SHE ASKED, "ARE YOU THE ONE WHO TIED THE RIBBON TO THIS RASPBERRY TREE?" "YES," THE WHITE BEAR ANSWERED. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE BLACK BEAR WOULD ASK SUCH A QUESTION. PERHAPS THE BLACK BEAR WAS BEING CRUEL, HE THOUGHT--TAKING HIS RASPBERRIES AND TEASING HIM FOR TYING THE RIBBON TO THE TREE! THIS MADE THE WHITE BEAR VERY SAD. BUT THEN THE BLACK BEAR SMILED KINDLY...



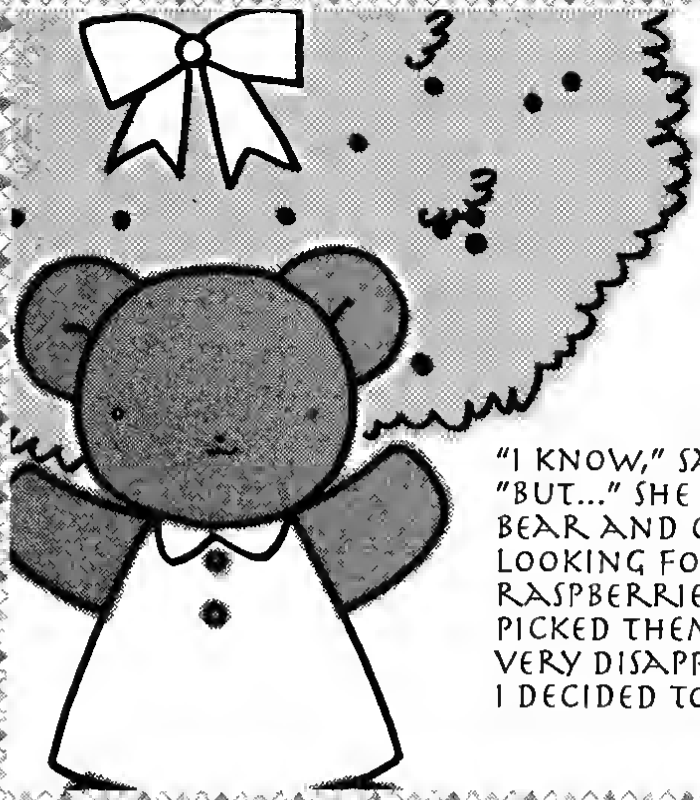


"GOOD THING I ASKED. THESE RASPBERRIES MUST BELONG TO YOU. AND THEY'RE VERY RIPE FOR THE PICKING!"

THE WHITE BEAR WAS SURPRISED. AFTER TAKING A GOOD LOOK, HE REALIZED THE TREE WAS INDEED AS HE HAD LEFT IT THE DAY BEFORE. NONE OF THE RASPBERRIES WERE PICKED.

COCKING HIS HEAD IN AMAZEMENT, HE SAID,

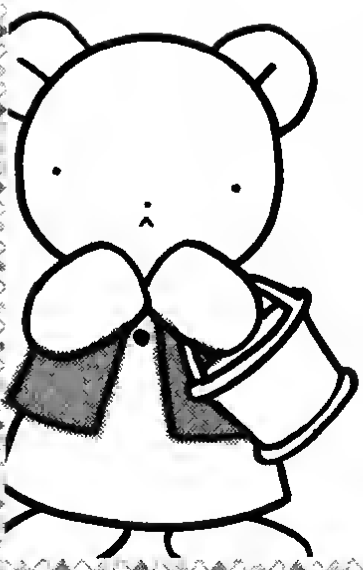
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DIDN'T *YOU* PICK THE RASPBERRIES?"



"WELL, THERE WAS A RIBBON TIED TO THIS TREE," THE BLACK BEAR SAID. "SO I THOUGHT IT WAS ALREADY SPOKEN FOR." "EVEN SO," THE WHITE BEAR SAID, "IF SOMEONE ELSE HAD PICKED THE BERRIES, I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN."

"I KNOW," SAID THE BLACK BEAR. "BUT..." SHE SMILED AT THE WHITE BEAR AND CONTINUED, "IF I WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO PICKING RASPBERRIES AND SOMEBODY ELSE PICKED THEM FIRST, I WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO GUARD THIS TREE."

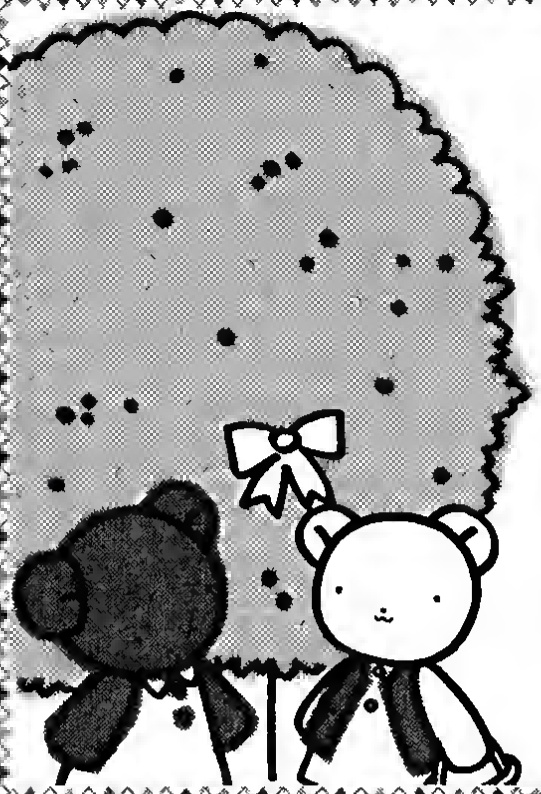




THE WHITE BEAR WAS VERY EMBARRASSED. HE HAD JUST ASSUMED THAT THE BLACK BEAR WAS PLANNING TO STEAL HIS RASPBERRIES.

AND THEN, WHEN HE THOUGHT THAT HIS MISTAKE ALMOST HURT THE BLACK BEAR'S FEELINGS, HE BECAME VERY SAD. HE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT, BECAUSE THEY WERE DIFFERENT COLORS, WHITE BEARS AND BLACK BEARS COULD NEVER BE FRIENDS.

BUT NOW THAT HE HAD MET THIS BLACK BEAR... THE WHITE BEAR UNDERSTOOD.



COLOR DIDN'T MATTER.

BEARS OF DIFFERENT COLORS COULD BECOME FRIENDS... IF THEY COULD ONLY MEET AND TALK.

"WHAT'S THE MATTER?" THE BLACK BEAR ASKED WORRIEDLY. THE WHITE BEAR WAS SO DEEP IN THOUGHT THAT HE HAD GROWN SILENT.

"DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?" SHE ASKED. "DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?" "NO," REPLIED THE WHITE BEAR. "IT'S NOT THAT."

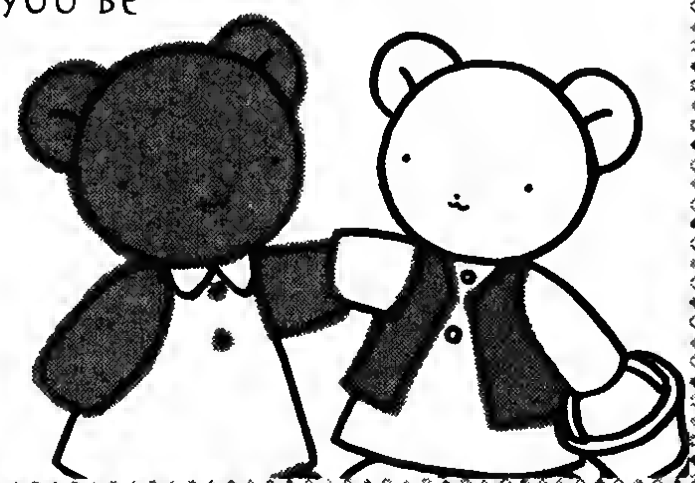


THEN HE TURNED TO THE BLACK BEAR AND SAID, "WHY DON'T WE PICK THESE RASPBERRIES TOGETHER, AND SHARE THEM EQUALLY?" "THESE RASPBERRIES ARE YOURS," PROTESTED THE BLACK BEAR. "BUT YOU GUARDED THEM FOR ME," THE WHITE BEAR REPLIED.

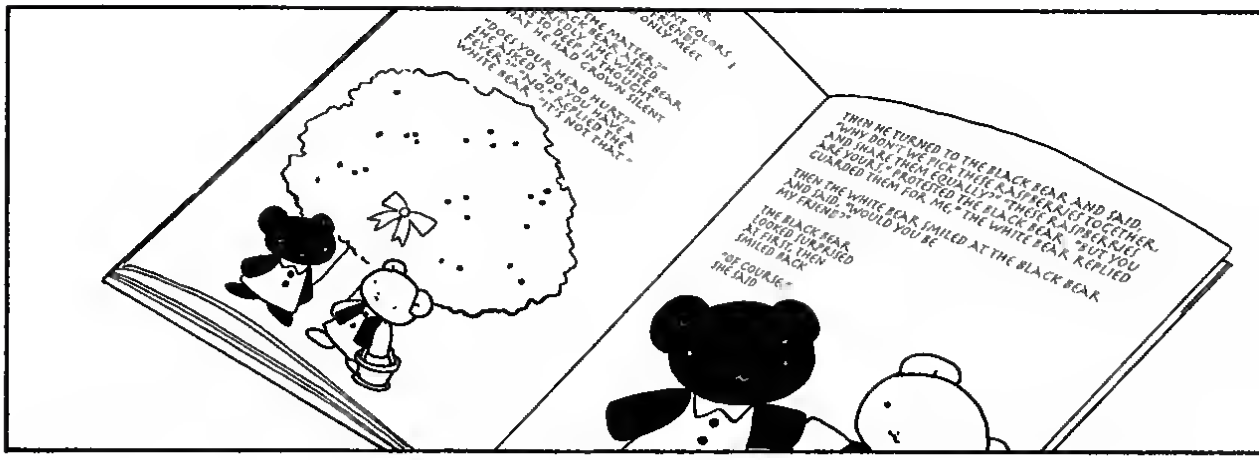
THEN THE WHITE BEAR SMILED AT THE BLACK BEAR AND SAID, "WOULD YOU BE MY FRIEND?"

THE BLACK BEAR LOOKED SURPRISED AT FIRST, THEN SMILED BACK.

"OF COURSE," SHE SAID.



 THE END

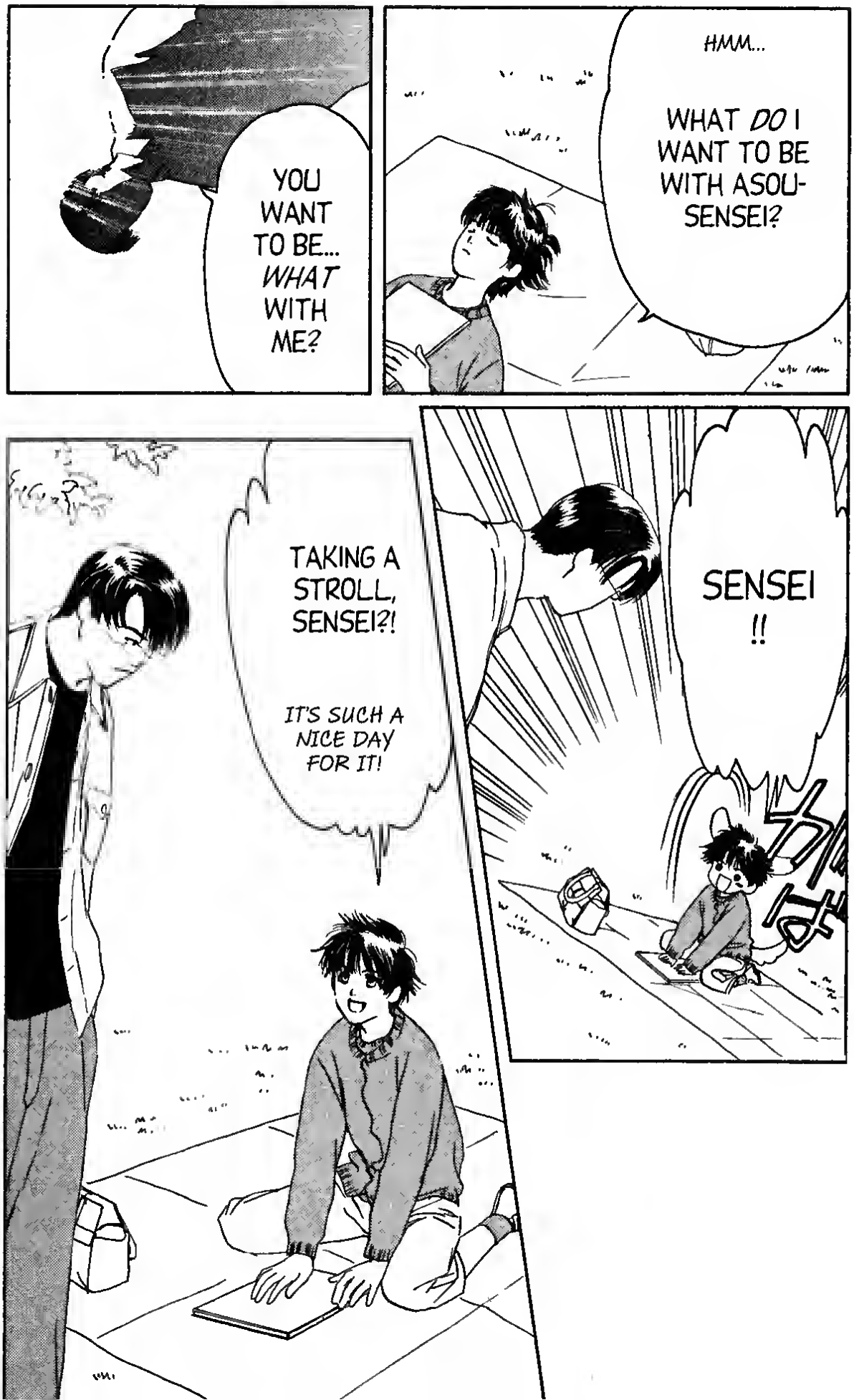

"DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?"
"NO, YOU HAVE A LOVELY HEAD."
"OH, I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU."
"I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT THAT KIND OF BEAR."
THEN HE TURNED TO THE BLACK BEAR AND SAID, "WHY DON'T WE PICK THEM UP TOGETHER, AND IMAGINE THEM EQUAL?" "THEIR RAISER-RIGHT," ARE YOU?," PROTESTED THE BLACK BEAR. "BUT YOU GUARDED THEM FOR ME," THE WHITE BEAR REPLIED
THEN THE WHITE BEAR SMILED AT THE BLACK BEAR AND SAID, "WOULD YOU BE MY FRIEND?"
THE BLACK BEAR LOOKED SURPRISED AT FIRST, THEN SMILED BACK
"OF COURSE," SHE SAID

"OF COURSE."
"WOULD YOU BE MY FRIEND?"
White Bear
Black Bear

ごろん

THE WHITE BEAR AND BLACK BEAR ARE FRIENDS NOW. I'M SO HAPPY FOR THEM!
にこにこ

I HOPE I CAN BECOME FRIENDS WITH ASOU-SENSEI.
"WOULD YOU BE MY FRIEND?"
HMM... THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.
I WOULD LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH SENSEI... BUT I KIND OF WISH IT COULD BE SOMETHING MORE...
woof woof


YOU WANT TO BE... *WHAT* WITH ME?
*HMM...*
WHAT *DO* I WANT TO BE WITH ASOU-SENSEI?
SENSEI !!
TAKING A STROLL, SENSEI?!
*IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY FOR IT!*

WELL...!
WHY?
I'M SO GLAD I RAN INTO YOU TODAY, SENSEI!
BUT HE JUST HAPPENED TO WALK BY JUST NOW. BY COINCIDENCE.
WELL, SENSEI DOES ALL THE THINGS I LOVE.
HM M M...
C'MON... YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY?
... THAT'S A GOOD QUES-TION.

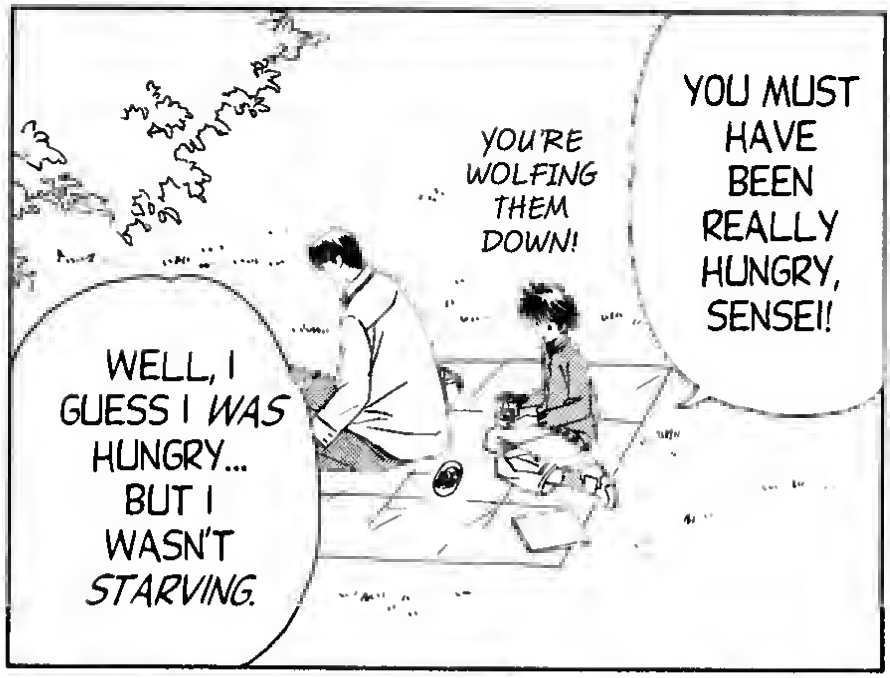
BECAUSE HE TALKED TO ME? WELL, YES... THAT, TOO. BUT IS THAT THE ONLY REASON?
SO... WHY AM I SO HAPPY?

SAY-- ARE YOU IN A HURRY, SENSEI?
NOT REALLY.
NOTH-ING.
OH, I WAS JUST THINKING.
WHAT?
I MADE A BENTO TODAY!
*Bento = Box Meal with an assortment of small dishes.
THEN... WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE LUNCH WITH ME?!
AND... I BROUGHT THIS TO READ!
White Bear
Black Bear
Words and Pictures by Tomo

UGH.
THAT...?
わくわく
BUT? BUT?
White Bear Black Bear
BUT...?
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
WHAT? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THIS BOOK?!
Bear
Bear
IF YOU HURRY UP AND OPEN IT.
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT WITH ME?!
HUH?
WELL, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SHARE YOUR BENTO, RIGHT?

I THINK I DID REALLY GOOD WITH THE EGGS TODAY!
I'M EATING BENTO WITH SENSE!! I'M SO HAPPY!!
YUP YUP.
I LOVE EATING BENTO WITH PEOPLE.
は、

ほにゃ～
BUT WHEN IT'S WITH ASOU-SENSEI...
I REALLY LOVE IT!!
WHAT, THIS MEATBALL?
NO NO NO
NO, NOT THAT. JUST-- EAT UP!


YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HUNGRY, SENSEI!
YOU'RE WOLFING THEM DOWN!
WELL, I GUESS I *WAS* HUNGRY... BUT I WASN'T *STARVING.*

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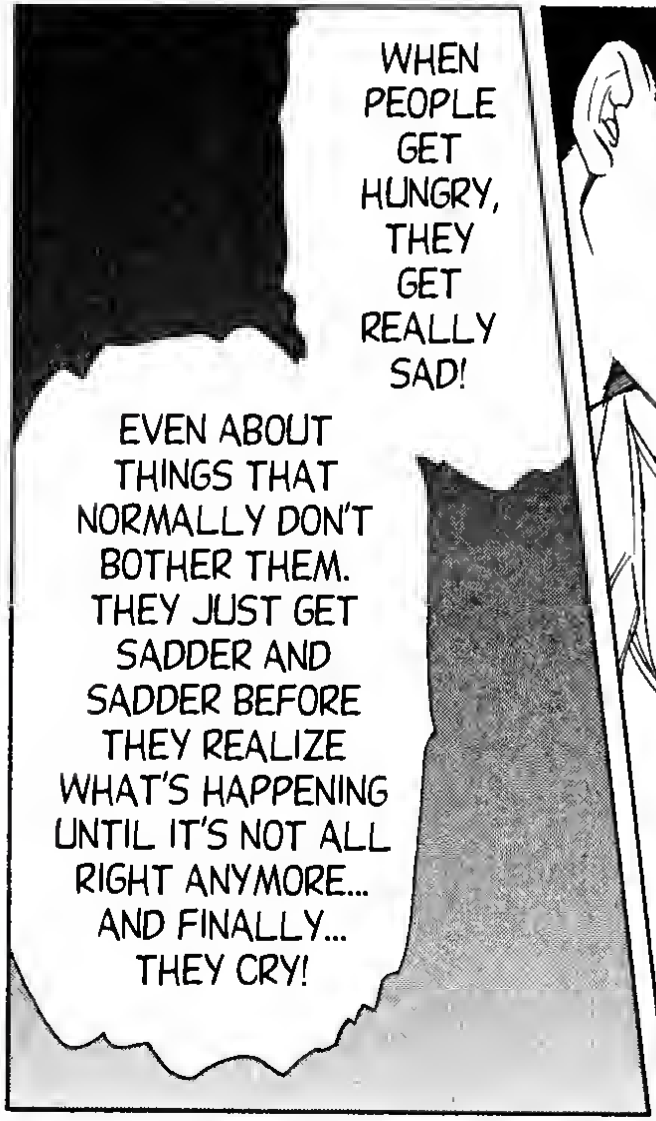

WHEN PEOPLE GET HUNGRY, THEY GET REALLY SAD!
EVEN ABOUT THINGS THAT NORMALLY DON'T BOTHER THEM. THEY JUST GET SADDER AND SADDER BEFORE THEY REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING UNTIL IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT ANYMORE... AND FINALLY... THEY CRY!

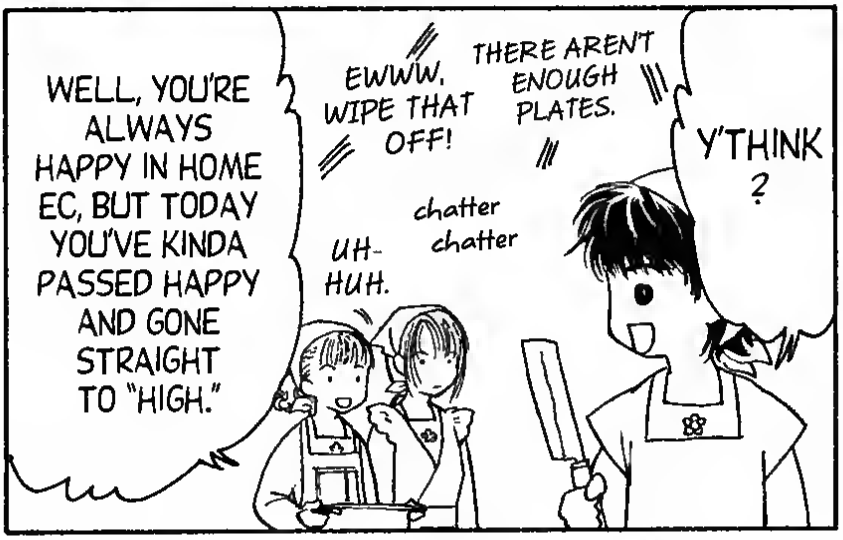
DON'T THINK LIKE THAT!

THEN THEY BECOME EVEN SADDER! AND...
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY KNOW THEY SHOULDN'T CRY, THEY JUST DO IT ANYWAY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T HELP IT!
YUP!
IS THAT WHY YOU EAT SO MUCH? SO YOU WON'T CRY?
HMM ?
...AND YOU LIVE ALL BY YOUR-SELF...

UH-HUH! I USED A RECIPE I LEARNED IN HOME ECONOMICS... YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
THESE EGGS ARE REALLY SWEET.
NO, THAT'S KETCH-UP.
THAT'S FOR FRIED EGGS.
I LIKE THEM BETTER WITH SALT!
WELL... AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO USE SOY SAUCE?
REALLY?
YOU'VE GOT STRANGE TASTES, YOU KNOW THAT?
HE ALWAYS EATS HIS EGGS WITH SOY SAUCE!
WELL, MY DAD IS JUST LIKE YOU, SENSEI!

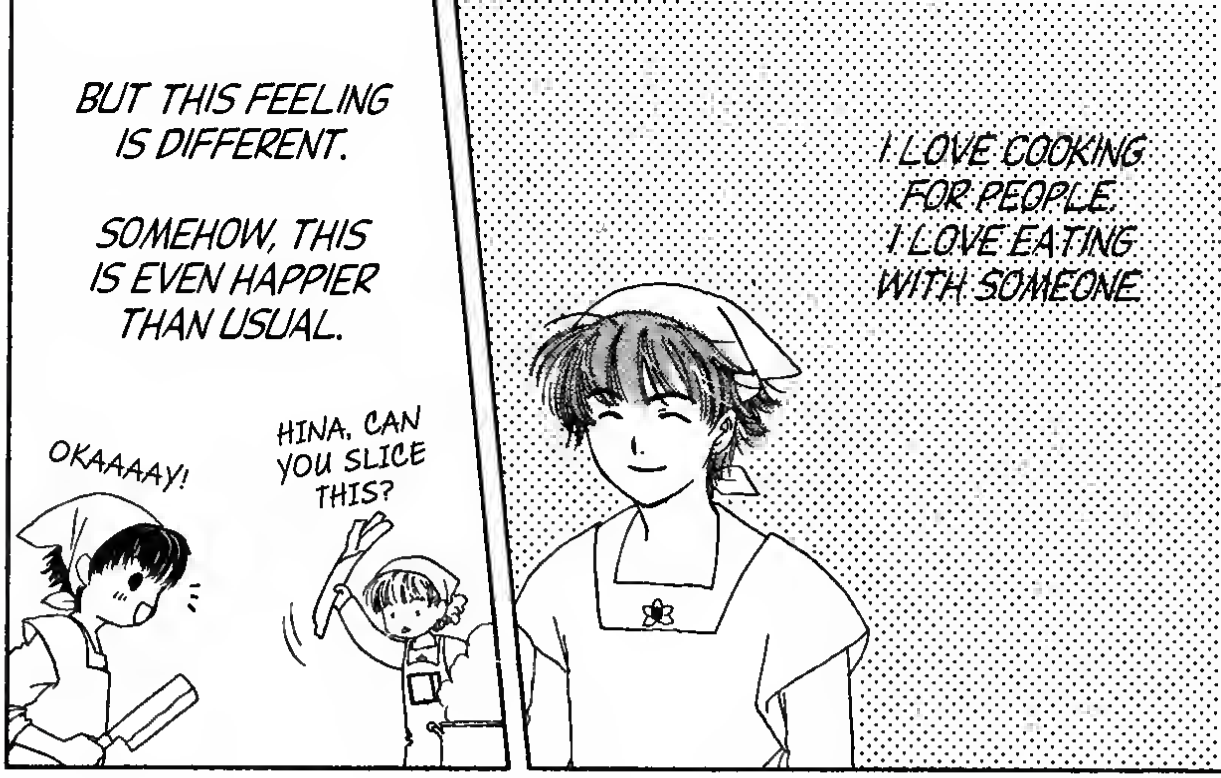
WELL... MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW IF HE STILL DOES.
OH!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT DINNER AT *MY* HOUSE TONIGHT, SENSEI?!
YOU REALLY SHOULD-- YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT EATING ENOUGH ANYWAY!
AND THAT WOULD MAKE ME *SAD*, RIGHT?
RIGHT!

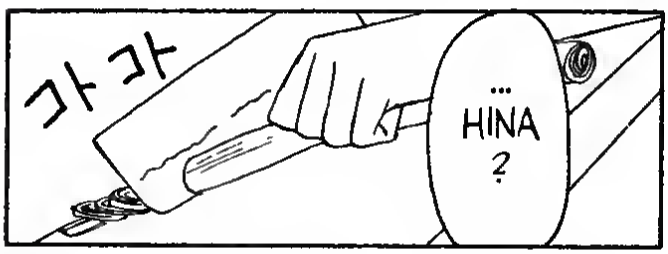
AS LONG AS IT'S GOOD NEXT TIME.
くしゃ
NO?
NO?
どきどき
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT TONIGHT, SENSEI?!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL WORK REALLY HARD IN HOME EC!
YAYYYY!!
... IT'LL BE EASIER THIS WAY.


WELL, YOU'RE ALWAYS HAPPY IN HOME EC, BUT TODAY YOU'VE KINDA PASSED HAPPY AND GONE STRAIGHT TO "HIGH."
EWWW. WIPE THAT OFF!
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLATES.
Y'THINK?
chatter chatter
UH-HUH.

*IT'S TRUE. I ALWAYS LOVE HOME ECONOMICS, BUT TODAY IS EVEN BETTER.*

*MUST BE BECAUSE ASOU-SENSEI SAID HE'D EAT DINNER WITH ME!*


I LOVE COOKING FOR PEOPLE. I LOVE EATING WITH SOMEONE.
HINA, CAN YOU SLICE THIS?
OKAAAAY!
BUT THIS FEELING IS DIFFERENT.
SOMEHOW, THIS IS EVEN HAPPIER THAN USUAL.


HINA ?
...

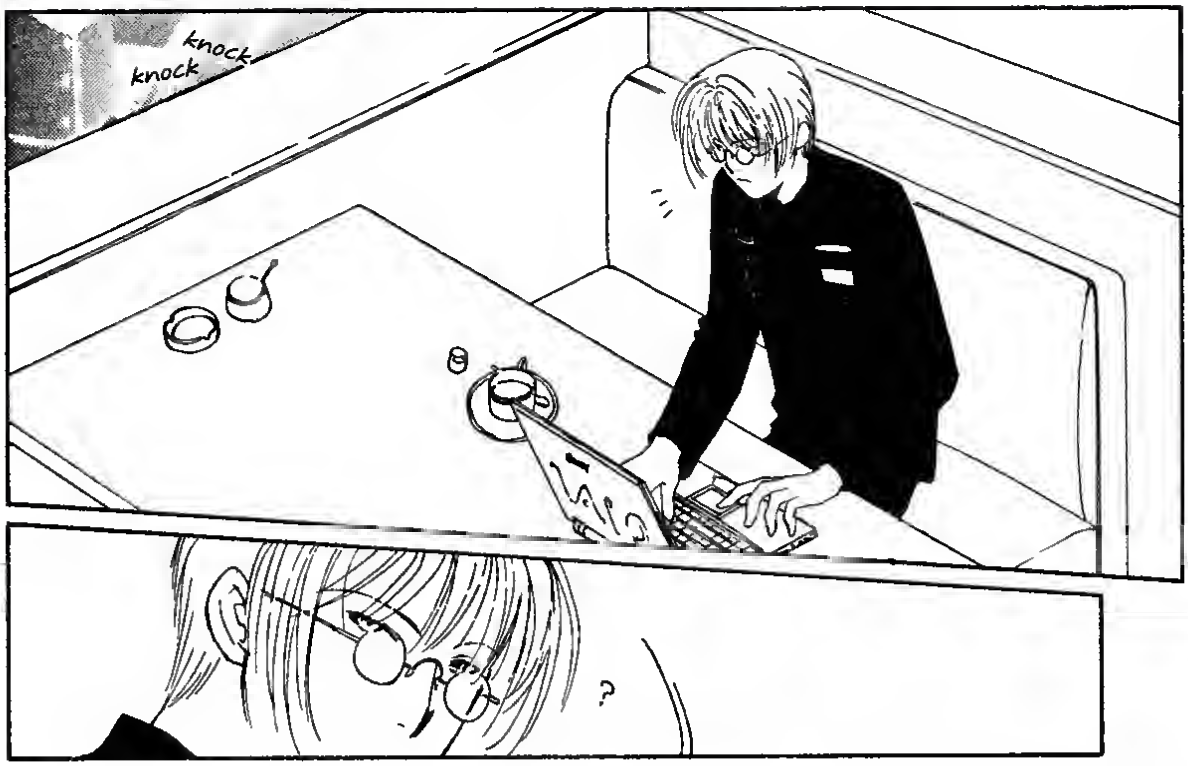
THANKS!
I'LL HELP YOU.

SO... YOU DON'T WANT TO GO BACK?
HOME, I MEAN.
?
I GO HOME EVERY DAY.

HOW IS IT THESE DAYS... LIVING BY YOURSELF?
WELL, I'M ALWAYS BUSY WITH SOMETHING... BUT IT'S FUN.

...TO YOUR REAL HOME.
WELL, I PROMISED MY DAD...
...THAT I'D LIVE ALONE.
SO, I'M JUST FINE LIKE THIS.
SORRY !!
YOU GUYS DONE SLICING OVER THERE?! THE POT'S BOILING OVER!
OKAY-- THANKS!
WELL, IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO, JUST TELL ME.

THANKS FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL DAY! EAT WELL AND GET SOME SLEEP, OKAY? REST UP FOR TOMORROW'S SCHEMES. EAT WELL AND HAVE SOME PLEASANT DREAMS! BUT DON'T EAT TOO MUCH OR YOU'LL HAVE NIGHTMARES... CAREFUL, OR YOU'LL GET THE NIGHT-SCARES...
Chuo Doori
Shopping District
I RUSHED STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL TO BUY GROCERIES FOR DINNER!
WONDER WHEN SENSEI GETS HOME?
I'LL GET HOME AND START COOKING, THEN I'LL CALL SENSEI OVER.
IT'S THAT GUY WHO TALKED TO SENSEI AT THE BOOKSTORE!
OH!


knock
knock
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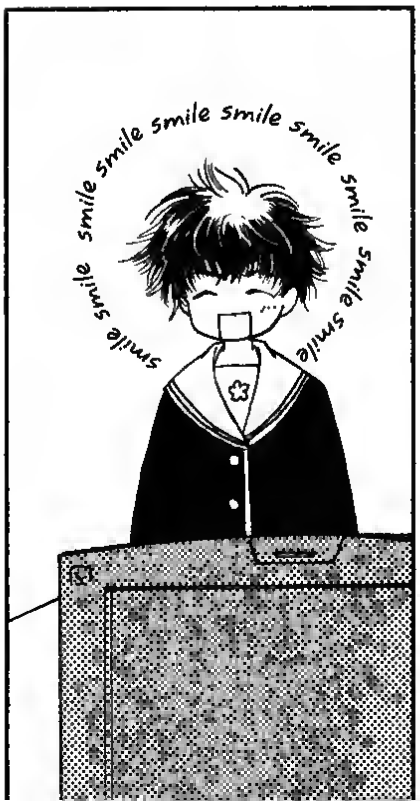
smile smile smile smile smile smile smile smile

I'M SORRY-- ARE YOU WORKING?
YOU WERE TYPING ON THAT THING.
にこ
SONY
VAIO
OH NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S JUST...
JUST ...?
にこ
にこ
IF SHIRO FINDS OUT...
FINDS OUT WHAT?
OH, NOTHING.
SORRY, I NEVER INTRODUCED MYSELF. I'M TOMOAKI NAMIYA.
Tomoaki Namiya

I'M HINATA ASAHI!
THAT'S A CUTE NAME.
THANKS! MY MOM GAVE IT TO ME!
CAN I BOR-ROW THIS?
Tomoaki Namiya
Hinata Asahi
MY DAD WANTED HINATA TO BE WRITTEN IN KANJI.
BUT MY MOM SAID I MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME WRITING MY NAME IN KINDERGARTEN IF IT WAS IN HARD KANJI, SO SHE MADE IT HIRAGANA.*
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE WONDER-FUL PARENTS.
THANK YOU.
HM?
Her gauzy skirt flew up to reveal long, succulent legs.
"No--stop!"
Savoring her struggle, he grabbed her ankles and
Tomoaki Namiya
Hinata Asahi

*Hiragana is the syllabic Japanese alphabet made up of 46 characters (plus variations).
Kanji are Chinese characters used in Japanese writing. As there are thousands of different Kanji, many of which are pronounced the same, it is a more difficult system. Most Japanese names are composed of Kanji.

...I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT THAT.
OOH. ARE YOU WRITING A NOVEL?
EROTIC?
WHOA.
YOU KNOW. *EROTIC* STORIES.
PORNO...?
WELL, IT'S WHAT WE CALL A *PORNO* NOVEL.
WOW! A REAL NOVELIST!
SAY-- CAN *YOU* TEACH ME ABOUT SEX?!
WOWWW...
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND SEX TALK. EMI-CHAN'S ALWAYS LAUGHING AT ME ABOUT THAT.

SURE. WHY NOT?
WELL, I'D BE GLAD TO... BUT ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH *YOU*?
DON'T LITTLE GIRLS LIKE YOU USUALLY LEARN ABOUT SEX FROM THAT *SPECIAL SOMEONE*?
*THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE...*
OH.
VAIO
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON.
I DON'T KNOW. *ARE* YOU SUPPOSED TO LEARN ABOUT SEX FROM THE PERSON YOU LOVE?
*WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT ASOU-SENSEI?*
*HUH?*

OH!
I JUST REMEMBERED.
I HAVE TO GO MAKE DINNER!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR WORK.
MY PLEASURE.
CAN I TALK TO YOU AGAIN SOME-TIME?
SURE... IF SHIRO DOESN'T MIND.
YOU MEAN ASOU-SENSEI?
WHY?
WELL, HE IS YOUR HOME-ROOM TEACHER, AFTER ALL.
OH-- I GET IT!
SEEYA!
BYE-BYE.

...KIZU.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

"THAT CHILD" IS SHIRO'S TARGET, YOU KNOW.
LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THAT CHILD SIT DOWN WITH YOU.
IT WOULD APPEAR SO.
SHE'S A GOOD GIRL... I CAN TELL.
CHEERFUL AND HONEST AND CUTE... JUST AS REPORTED.

...LET'S HOPE SOME OF THAT WILL RUB OFF ON SHIRO.

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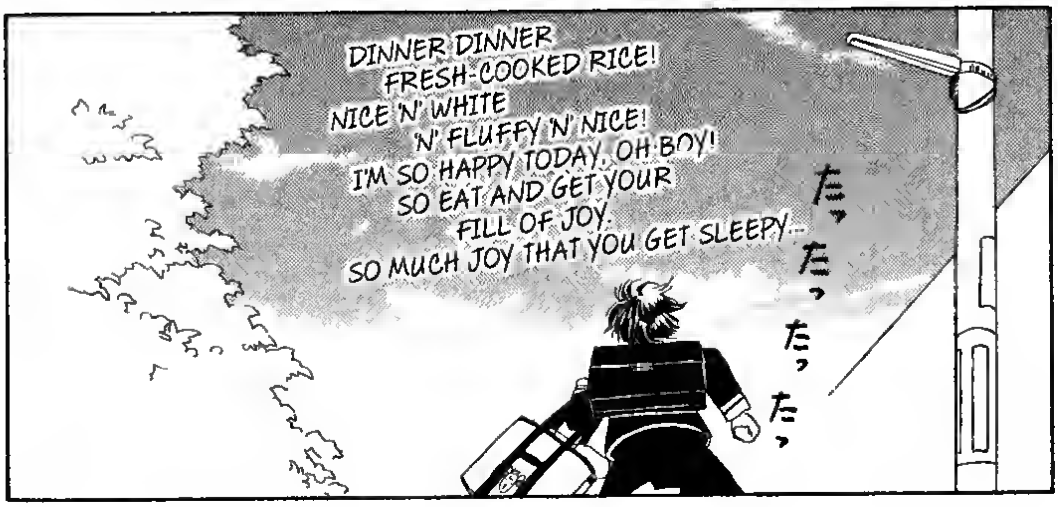
DINNER DINNER
FRESH-COOKED RICE!
NICE 'N' WHITE
'N' FLUFFY 'N' NICE!
I'M SO HAPPY TODAY, OH BOY!
SO EAT AND GET YOUR
FILL OF JOY.
SO MUCH JOY THAT YOU GET SLEEPY...
た、た、た、た、

THE THINGS I DO THAT MAKE ME HAPPY... MAKE ME **REALLY** HAPPY... WHEN I DO THEM WITH ASO-SENSEI.

DOES THAT MEAN **HE'S** MY SPECIAL SOMEONE?

THE THINGS I LOVE... I **REALLY** LOVE... WHEN I DO THEM WITH ASO-SENSEI.

I LOVE THINKING ABOUT ASOU-SENSEI!

VERY, VERY MUCH...

Continued in Vol. 2